

Dakhqan opens Tunis meeting

TUNIS (Petra) — Minister of Transport Ahmad Dakhqan opened here Wednesday the second ordinary meeting of the Council of Arab Ministers of Transport and delivered Jordan's speech in which he called on Arab countries to support pan-Arab organisations and companies that are concerned with transport. Such organisations should be allowed to promote their cooperation and their performance and should facilitate land, maritime and air transport among Arab countries, the minister said. Mr. Dakhqan said air transport within the Arab World did not exceed 1.5 per cent of the total world air transport and the Arabs need to exert serious efforts to promote their air transport systems and operations. The Arab ministers will discuss an agenda that includes among other things a transport strategy for the Arab World.

S. Arabia, Jordan discuss joint company

AMMAN (Petra) — Arrangements for setting up a Saudi Arabian-Jordanian investment company with a \$50 million capital were reviewed here Wednesday by the Saudi Arabian-Jordanian Economic Committee chaired by under-secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Trade Mohammad Saqqaf and under-secretary of the Saudi Arabian Ministry of Finance Usama Faqih. The committee also reviewed an index of products exchanged by the two countries that are to be exempted fully or partially from customs duty and also means of further developing cooperation in transport and transit operations. The Saudi delegation arrived in Amman on Tuesday.

Assad meets Gemayel's envoy

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanese President Amin Gemayel sent a personal envoy to Damascus on Tuesday to meet the Syrian leader after nearly 12 months of strain between the two presidents, an official statement said Wednesday. According to the statement, envoy Hani Salam held two hours of talks with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad before returning to Lebanon later in the day and a meeting with Mr. Gemayel.

Iraq reports raids

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraqi aircraft attacked and destroyed oil pumping stations and offshore oil loading platforms in western Iraq and the northern Gulf on Wednesday, the high command reported. A communiqué said the targets were pumping stations on Tang-i-Fanni oilfield, 90 kilometres northwest of Dezful, two oil loading platforms in the Ardeshr oilfield, some 70 kilometres off Kharg Island and a platform in the Cyprus field, farther south.

Mahdi in Iran

TEHRAN (R) — Sudan's Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi arrived here Wednesday on the first visit by a Sudanese leader to Iran since the 1979 Islamic revolution. He will reopen the Sudanese embassy, closed after Tehran broke relations with Sudan under its former president, Jaafar Numeiri. Ties were restored after Mr. Numeiri was ousted in a coup last year and Mr. Mahdi later became prime minister in the country's first elected government since 1968.

Saudi and Soviet ambassadors meet

KUWAIT (R) — Saudi Arabia and the Soviet Union, which have no diplomatic relations, were reported on Wednesday to have established informal contacts in London. The ambassadors of Riyadh and Moscow have held talks at each others' residences, the London-based weekly Al-Tadamon says in a report to be published on Saturday. "Saudi Arabia has re-established contact with the Soviet Union (in London) in a series of unofficial dialogues between the two despite absence of diplomatic relations," KUNA said, citing the Al-Tadamon report.

INSIDE

- * France drops supplies in Chad, page 2
- * JVA awards JD 8.8 million canal project, page 3
- * Palestinians outsmart Israel's Judaisation drive, page 4
- * Seven days in Romania, by Khaled Mahaddin, page 5
- * Italy's Edalini wins World Cup special slalom event, page 6
- * U.S. to ease allies' military debts, page 7
- * Top Vietnamese leaders resign, page 8

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Arab Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية مستقلة
المؤسسة الصحفية العربية للصحافة
Jordanian Press Foundation

Volume 11 Number 3352

AMMAN, THURSDAY-FRIDAY DECEMBER 18-19, 1986, RABIA AL THANI 17-18, 1408

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

Booby-traps found at Arab home in Jerusalem

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Two hand grenades set as booby-traps at an Arab home in Jerusalem were defused by police on Wednesday.

Police said the fragmentation grenades were attached to the front door and found under the car of an Arab family in the East Jerusalem suburb of Silwan.

Silwan was the scene of a grenade attack last month on Israeli army recruits.

One person was killed and 69 wounded in the attack.

In a separate incident, stone-throwers smashed the windows of three Arab-owned cars during the night in the mainly Jewish Shmuel Hanavri neighbourhood, police said.

An Israeli was injured on Wednesday when Arabs threw stones at a bus near the Kalandia refugee camp, north of Jerusalem, police said.

Israel Radio reported that the house where the booby-traps were found owners were not known by police to have criminal connections, and the Israeli news agency Iim said both grenades

were Israeli-made.

A police spokesman told AP he "can not release information regarding the kind of grenades."

Earlier this week, two firebombs were thrown into an Arab house in East Jerusalem, breaking two windows and setting a bed ablaze.

The incident followed the recent anti-Arab violence in Jerusalem that started after the Nov. 15 stabbing death of a Jewish youth in Jerusalem's Old City.

Meanwhile, Israeli settlers told parliamentarians they will move an additional 30 Jewish families into the heart of the West Bank town of Hebron, long a flashpoint of violence, Israel Television said.

Several hundred Israelis have settled in Hebron in recent years, vowing to take over what they describe as the old Jewish quarter of the town.

Later on Wednesday, Israeli troops sealed up the room of a

man awaiting trial for alleged guerrilla activity in the East Jerusalem suburb of Abu Dis, Israeli sources quoted by Reuters said.

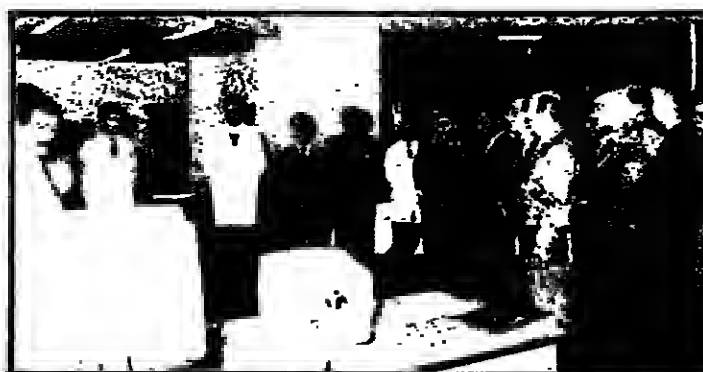
Protesters hurled stones at soldiers who cordoned off the street during the operation. The troops pushed the protesters back and no one was injured on either side, the sources said. No arrests were made.

Israeli forces often seal rooms or demolish houses of Palestinian activists.

Human rights activists are highly critical of the measures, saying they punish entire families for the act of one person who has frequently been either killed in action or jailed.

The room had belonged to a local Palestinian resident now awaiting trial on charges of allegedly helping plant a bomb on a Jewish West Jerusalem bus in 1983 in which six people died.

In the centre of the northern city of Haifa, several hundred Jews and Arabs demonstrated peacefully against the Israeli occupation of the West Bank.



His Majesty King Hussein on Wednesday visits the Royal Jordanian Geographic Centre (photo on left) and the Public Security Department (Petra photos)

King visits PSD and geographic centre

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Wednesday visited the Royal Jordanian Geographic Centre (RJGC) and met with Armed Forces Chief of Staff Lieutenant-General Fathi Abu Taleb and the centre's director general, Ra'fat Majali.

King Hussein heard a briefing from Mr. Majali on the centre's operations and duties and the services it offers to the private and public sectors.

Accompanied by Prime

Minister Zaid Rifai, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh and Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, King Hussein toured the various sections of the centre.

The King examined the process of producing maps and looked into studies and researches that are aimed at serving the country's economic and social development endeavours.

King Hussein said various government departments should benefit from these services which are no less in quality and standard than those found in advanced nations.

Later on Wednesday, the King called at the Public Security Department (PSD) and met with its director, Lieutenant-General Abdul Hadi Al Majali, and his senior aides.

The King heard a briefing

presented by Lt.-Gen. Majali on the PSD's plans for modernising and promoting the work of the police force in Jordan and training programmes and services to the public.

Present with the King at the briefing session were Prime Minister Rifai, Gen. Sharif Zaid, Cabinet ministers and the directors of the General Intelligence and Civil Defence Departments.

Efforts to end 'camps war' remain stalled

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Attempts to end Lebanon's 'camps war' remained deadlocked on Wednesday as fighting flared again in Beirut and fighters loyal to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat dug into positions ringing Beirut's Shatila camp.

Shatila camp raked its narrow alleys with fire from Soviet-made T-54 tanks, Palestinian sources told Reuters.

Sporadic mortar battles overnight wounded 35 people in Shatila, its sister camp of Bourj Al Banajneh and nearby Shifa districts, Palestinian and Amal sources told the news agency.

Roads around the battered shantytowns, including the main highway linking Beirut with its airport to the south, were still closed but air traffic was normal.

About 700 people have been killed in 11 weeks of Amal-Palestinian battles, which have continued despite a series of truce accords. Hundreds more have been wounded and thousands of civilians displaced.

In South Lebanon, witnesses quoted by Reuters said fighters of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) held on to hard-won positions in the strategic village of Maghdousheh near Sidon.

About 200 Palestinian women from the nearby 'Ain Al Hilweh camp visited Maghdousheh to urge the fighters to stay.

"The mothers of the martyrs asked us to come and raise our voices here," said a woman named Alia. "We want to withdraw without guarantees."

The women also urged pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God) militiamen, deployed as a buffer force under an earlier truce, to help to ensure the safety of the refugee camps.

The PLO said on Monday it would give up its gains in the village only if Amal let go its stronghold on refugee camps in Beirut and at Rashidiyeh near Tyre in the far south.

Palestinian sources said a man was wounded by sniper fire at Rashidiyeh, where Iranian mediator Issa Tabatabai has stayed for a week to demonstrate Tehran's commitment to peace.

Pro and anti-Arafat Palestinians joined forces last month to seize Maghdousheh, overlooking the Sidon-Tyre coast road, from Amal to relieve pressure on the besieged camps.

Iranian mediators secured the withdrawal of pro-Syrian Palestine National Salvation Front (PNSF) fighters from the

Arab federation to set up centre in Amman to market W. Bank products

Egypt readmitted to FACCIA after seven-year break

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Federation of Arab Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture (FACCIA) on Wednesday wound up its 65th meeting with Egypt

joining the deliberations of the final session. The meeting issued several recommendations covering means to tighten Arab boycott regulations against Israel.

At the outset of the meeting's deliberations on Monday, the participants extended an invitation to Egypt, whose membership in the federation had been revoked after Cairo signed its separate treaty with Israel in 1979.

A special Egyptian delegation arrived in Amman and took part in Wednesday's final session.

A key FACCIA recommendation issued on Wednesday urged Arab states to open their markets for goods from

the Israeli-occupied territories in order to contribute towards supporting the steadfastness of the Palestinian people living there.

The recommendation also reaffirmed a previous resolution by the federation aimed at bringing about mechanisms to be instrumental in promoting exports from the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In this regard, the meeting undertook to set up a centre for marketing the produce of the occupied territories. The centre, to be based in Amman, will be under the supervision of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee for supporting the steadfastness of the Palestinian people.

On the scope of cooperation between Arab countries and foreign states within the framework of joint Arab international chambers of commerce, a recommendation called for initiating talks with officials from Spain, Canada, Kenya, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Malaysia and Indonesia towards

setting up joint chambers of commerce.

On the existing joint chambers of commerce with Ireland, Australia and West Germany, the meeting recommended readjustment and priority realignment with a view to further enhance the activities being undertaken by the chambers in question.

The meeting also assessed a report by the joint Arab-European Chambers of Commerce on the proposed convening of a seminar on Arab boycott of Israel regulations and economic measures in international trade disputes.

The seminar is scheduled to convene in Geneva, Switzerland, next June. All Arab chambers of commerce were called upon to take part in the seminar.

Regarding another seminar on Arab-U.S. economic relations, the federation unanimously called for postponing the seminar, the second in a series of seminars on the same issue.

(Continued on page 5)

U.S. congressmen end visit

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Two U.S. congressmen left Amman for Cairo on Wednesday after a short stopover in the Kingdom during which they were received by His Majesty King Hussein, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and senior Jordanian officials.

The King met with Republican Senator Rudolph Boschwitz and Republican Congressman Joseph Kolbe Wednesday morning, hours before they left for Egypt, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

Petra did not disclose subjects of discussion during King Hussein's meeting with the congressmen but said the audience was attended by Mr. Rifai, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem and U.S. Ambassador to Jordan Paul Boeker.

The two American lawmakers arrived here from Israel on Tuesday morning and a press release issued by the American centre in Amman described their mission as a "short orientation."

visit to the Kingdom as part of their tour in the region.

Before their departure, they were also received in two separate meetings by Mr. Rifai and Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker.

Petra, which reported on the two meetings held at the Prime Ministry and the Armed Forces General Headquarters, did not reveal any details.

But according to Tuesday's press release, the Minnesota senator and the Arizona congressman were expected to discuss with senior Jordanian officials bilateral relations and ways to promote peace in the Middle East region.

According to Petra, Ambassador Boeker attended the meeting at the Prime Ministry, while Chief of Staff Lieutenant-General Fathi Abu Taleb, the commander of the Royal Jordanian Air Forces and the American military attaché to Jordan attended the meeting between the two legislators and Gen. Sharif Zaid.

Mubarak meets Haj Hassan

CAIRO (Petra) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak met here Wednesday with Minister of Labour and Social Development Khaled Al Haj Hassan and discussed with him bilateral cooperation in labour-related affairs. The minister was also received by Egyptian Prime Minister Atef Sidki for an exchange of views on relations between the two countries and cooperation in organising employment of Egyptian workers in Jordan in implementation of resolutions passed by the Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee.

After the meetings, Mr. Haj Hassan told reporters that the two sides were discussing means of bolstering their cooperation in employment and labour affairs.

Mr. Haj Hassan discussed labour affairs at meetings with his Egyptian counterpart Assem Abdul Haq and said that agreement was reached on certain principles for organising the employment of Egyptian workers in Jordan.

10 more die in Karachi tribal violence

KARACHI (Agencies) — Ten people died and about 50 were wounded on Wednesday as the death toll from unrelenting ethnic violence in Pakistan's biggest city rose to at least 174, police and hospital sources said Wednesday.

Eight were victims of fresh clashes in Karachi, including two shot dead by troops and one man lynched by an angry mob, and two died from wounds from unrest on Tuesday, said the sources, quoted by Reuters.

Pakistan's leading opposition figure, Benazir Bhutto, condemned the riots and said the government, which has clamped a curfew on much of the Arabian Sea port, should resign and hold fresh general elections.

"The genesis of the problem which confronts Pakistan today... lies in the deliberate policy of General (Mohammad) Zia Ul-Haq to undermine national institutions and suppress political parties," Miss Bhutto told a news conference.

She demanded the immediate dismissal of the governor and chief minister of Sind province in which Karachi is situated. She also said Gen. Zia, the country's president, should be stripped of his chief of army staff post and new elections should be held.

Firefighters said at least eight shops were set ablaze during clashes between Pathans from the country's north-west and Afghanistan and Mohajirs, immigrants from British India at the time of its partition in 1947.

Riots erupted on Sunday when over 2,000 Pathans armed with automatic weapons attacked Mohajirs in Orangi town and killed at least 100 people and burned over 300 shops and houses.

The attack followed a massive operation against the international drug-trafficking centre Sohrab Goth. The Pathans uprooted from there attacked Mohajirs who had demanded the dismantling of the narcotics centre.

A curfew banning people from the streets in two-thirds of the city of seven million people was relaxed for two hours Wednesday.



Their Royal Highnesses Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath on Wednesday inaugurate an exhibition of Orientalist paintings of Jordan at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts (Petra photo)

Crown Prince, Princess Sarvath open Orientalists' exhibition

AMMAN (J.T.) — A five-week exhibition of 19th Century British artists entitled "On the Banks of Jordan" went on display Wednesday and was inaugurated by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Her Highness Princess Sarvath at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts.

The event is jointly organised by the gallery and the British Council in Amman and groups 51 oil and water colour paintings by 21 British Orientalists who visited the area sometime in the nineteenth century.

Seven private Jordanian collectors and 14 museums in the United Kingdom and Jordan have loaned their paintings to be part of its unique exhibition, which is being unveiled to the Jordanian public for the first time.

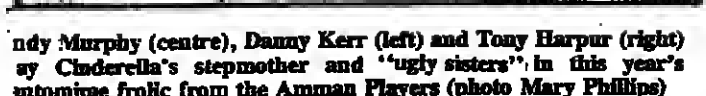
The gallery's director Suhail Ishara described the collection as "very precious" and told reporters at a news conference that both organisers worked for a whole year to get the exhibition mounted here in Amman.

The director of the British Council in Amman, Mr. David Atkin, told reporters that the display commemorates more than 30 years of productive friendship between Jordan and Britain and rings to the Jordanians the story of their land as portrayed in the works on display.

The British Orientalists, whose works are being shown at the gallery include: Thomas Allom, William Bartlett, Heulens.

Princess Basma opens charity bazaar for welfare societies

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, President of the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund (QASWF) on Wednesday opened an annual charity bazaar held at the Marriott Hotel in Amman. The bazaar has been organised by the Al Hussein Society for the Rehabilitation of Physically Handicapped in cooperation with a number of charities and welfare societies.



Andy Murphy (centre), Danny Kerr (left) and Tony Harpur (right) as Cinderella's stepmother and "ugly sisters" in this year's pantomime frolic from the Amman Players (photo Mary Phillips)

festive frolics, fairies and lots of fun — all for charity

By Mary Phillips
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Yes, it's the pantomime season again, when well-loved fairy tales are revamped with strange schisms, when men dress up ladies and vice versa, and mally quiet, sane people in the theatre find themselves being de to sing songs, and hiss when villain appears.

This year's pantomime by the Amman Players, a group of Jordanian and expatriate amateur drama enthusiasts, producer-director Julia Kelvey, who is new to Amman who has had experience of eral theatre productions in wait, is not giving away any crets about this year's production, except to say that it will be the traditional story of Cinderella — with some surprises. you can expect the is-to-riches story of poor iderella, the daughter of an overworked barn, and her

suffering at the hands of his dreadful new wife and her two equally dreadful daughters, the "ugly sisters." There will be a very different fairy godmother with a whole troupe of fairies (some more fey than others), a handsome prince, a ball and lots of singing, dancing and fun for both adults and children.

'Boarding cards'

Those of you who have already bought tickets will have noticed that they bear a strange resemblance to flight boarding cards. If, when you are comfortably seated in the Baccalaureate Theatre, this impression of being on a flight is enhanced, and you start groping for a seat belt to fasten, it is because British Airways have helped with various aspects of the production. They have also donated two free tickets to London as a door prize.

Performances are on Friday Dec. 19 at 3 p.m. (matinee), Saturday Dec. 20 at 7:30 p.m., Sunday Dec. 21 at 8:30 p.m. and Monday Dec. 22 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are JD 2 each, and are still available from Sweet Supermarket and the British Airways office, or on the door.

JMC to offer refresher courses for doctors

By Sama Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — For the first time in Jordan, refresher courses will be offered by the Jordan Medical Council (JMC) to doctors who failed to pass the JMC exam, according to Minister of Health and president of the JMC Zaid Hamzeh.

Dr. Hamzeh said that the courses, which will differ in length and quality, will start in the first month of 1987. In an interview with the Jordan Times, he said that the programme will include lectures, seminars, workshops, and intensive courses given by highly-reputable doctors.

The minister added that a new section in the JMC was established to organise the programme and to prepare detailed schedules. He said that not only doctors who failed the JMC exam may participate in this programme, but also doctors who wish to refresh their medical knowledge.

Once v. twice a year

Dr. Hamzeh explained that there are two exams a year which doctors can take, but believes that it should be only once a year. "Because of the low percentage of success and because one of the main objectives of the JMC is to train people in the process of continued medical education, we are considering to reduce the exam to be held only once a year rather than twice. It is a waste of time for the doctors to take exams twice a year. Whereas, if it were once a year, doctors are able to achieve this objective," Dr. Hamzeh said.

Failures and re-sits

The minister also believes that there should be a limit for those who repeatedly take exams because of repeated failures. He



Zaid Hamzeh

said: "Doctors should just be given two or three chances to pass, because there are a number of doctors who sit the exam several times." He went on to say that each examinee who has previously failed pays JD 20 for each exam, and that sometimes the JMC is required to bring examiners from abroad. "Examiners come to Jordan on our (JMC) expense — and it costs quite a sum — even if there are only two doctors being examined. And they may fail again and again. So a limit to the exams retaken could be a reasonable solution," the minister stated.

There are two types of JMC exams, said the minister; one for only newly-graduated doctors who studied outside Jordan. They must pass this exam in order to receive their licences to practice medicine in Jordan. The other JMC exam is for specialised doctors who must pass if they are to earn their titles as specialists and to practice their professions in government institutions. He pointed out that 30 different specialised exams were given this year.

There are JMC exams being taken presently; and 27 per cent of the doctors who were examined last November had failed, according to Dr. Anwar Bilbeisi a member of the council.

Symposium on Arab women in public life concludes

AMMAN (J.T.) — The first symposium on Arab women in public and political life ended in Irbid on Wednesday with a statement underlining the need for conducting studies on the role of women and to pave the way for specific strategies designed to improve the status of women in Arab society.

The four-day symposium, which was held in cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), said that the proposed studies should tackle women's employment, women's status in terms of politics and culture, and their role in voluntary work. The symposium recommended that the studies contrast the role of women in various Arab states so that a comprehensive image of women in Arab society can be put together.

The symposium proposed that UNESCO adopt such studies and distribute their findings to national committees and organisations concerned with the role of women in the Arab World.

Cable to Queen Noor

The participants sent a cable to Her Majesty Queen Noor voicing their appreciation for the Queen patronising the symposium and another message to the president of the Yarmouk University for providing facilities which helped make the symposium a success.

The symposium was opened on Saturday by Mrs. Ina'am Al Mufli, director general of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation, who read out the Queen's message to the symposium. Queen Noor said in the message that the role of Arab women in public life bears directly on the socio-economic context of society and that psychological, social and political changes were essential requirements to enable more women to achieve personal and professional fulfilment.

JVA awards JD 8.8m contract to replace open canal networks with pipe network for irrigation

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) has awarded a contract worth JD 8.8 million to an international firm to carry out an irrigation project in the Jordan Valley.

The project, which is within the JVA's five-year plan, entails replacing open canals, presently used to irrigate 57,000 dunums, with pipe networks and laying additional pipe networks to irrigate a further 6,000 dunums of land in the central Jordan Valley region.

The project is aimed at saving substantial amounts of water which are lost through evaporation in the open canal system. According to a JVA spokesman, an estimated 20 million cubic metres of water is lost through evaporation annually. He said that the new networks will bring in water from the Yarmouk and Zarqa Rivers and from the King Talal Reservoir to feed lands lying between Wadi Rajab in the north and the Masri junction in the south.

The project, which is expected to take three years to complete, also entails building four pumping stations to be built along the East Ghor Canal, laying 227 kilometres of pipes to bring water to the valley from the Zarqa and Yarmouk Rivers and the King Talal reservoir. The project also provides for improving agricultural roads and building new ones.

According to the spokesman, the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development will provide JD 6 million and the Jordanian treasury will cover the remainder of the project cost. The contract was signed for the JVA by its president Dr. Munther Haddadin and the firm's representative in Jordan.

School, housing project Also Wednesday, the JVA

signed a second agreement with a local company under which the latter will set up a health centre at Wadi Araba, a school for the village of Ma'moura in the southern Jordan Valley and other buildings to house JVA workers in the region.

The project will take one year to complete and is part of the JVA's efforts to develop the southern Jordan Valley regions, according to the JVA spokesman. He said that two weeks ago, the authority embarked on a project to estimate water resources for Wadi Araba. The agreement with the local firm was signed by Dr. Haddadin and the company's director general.

Dr. Haddadin returned to Amman on Wednesday at the end of a visit to the United States and

the United Kingdom. He said in a statement that he held talks with officials at the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) on projects the JVA intends to implement and possible USAID assistance in this respect.

One of these projects is to store water which collects on the sides of the valleys in the Jordan Valley region.

During his visit, which lasted several days, Dr. Haddadin took part in an international symposium held at the centre of international strategic studies at Georgetown University in Washington, which dealt with water resources in the Middle East region.

In Britain, Dr. Haddadin said he held talks with officials from the consultancy firm which is providing designs for the projected Al Karameh dam to be built in the Jordan Valley.

Jordan exports first shipment of vegetables to EC markets

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan on Wednesday exported its first shipment of vegetables and crops to countries of the European Community. The consignment was dispatched via aircraft provided by the Royal Jordanian airline, according to Mr. Ghazi Abu Hassan, director general of the Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company of Jordan (AMPCO).

He said that the shipment was the first of many which will be exported until the end of April 1987, in implementation of contracts concluded with importers of vegetable and fruits in Britain, Holland and West

Germany. At present, AMPCO is negotiating with France and Poland to exchange their apples for Jordanian agricultural products needed for markets in these two countries, Mr. Abu Hassan said.

Once the barter agreement has been concluded, Jordan will be shipping its produce in specially fitted cargo vessels in addition to aircraft. Mr. Abu Hassan added. He said that AMPCO has also signed contracts with importers in the Arabian Gulf region to ship Jordanian agricultural products to the Gulf, adding that shipments will commence early next month.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Three dies in week's road accidents

AMMAN (Petra) — Three people died and 91 others were injured in 27 road accidents which occurred in Jordan between Dec. 9 and Dec. 15, according to a statistical bulletin issued by the Public Security Department (PSD). The bulletin said that the number of accidents in the past week registered a 6.2 per cent increase over that of the previous week but that the number of deaths was lower by 80 per cent.

Cabinet dissolves Bala'ma council

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet decided on Wednesday to dissolve the municipal council of Bala'ma in Mafrqa Governorate and to appoint a committee to replace the council. The committee will be chaired by Mr. Walid Muhssen, Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Yusef Hamdan on Wednesday announced the appointment of Mr. Nawwash Al Nahar to chair a committee to supervise a referendum held for the two villages of Rawda and Rujum Al Shami on the establishment of municipal councils in the two villages.

Joint company to supervise industries

BAGHDAD (Petra) — The Jordanian Iraqi Higher Joint Committee has agreed to establish an industrial plant in Amman and a second in Baghdad to operate under the supervision of the Joint Industry Company, according to Mr. Mohammad Al Saqqaf, under the secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Trade. Mr. Saqqaf said that the industry company will start producing foodstuffs in three months. The company owns a food processing plant in Baghdad and its operations were discussed by the higher committee, chaired by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan. Mr. Saqqaf said that the food supplies produced by the plant will supply Iraqi and Jordanian markets with their needs of products.

NOTICE

Reuters News Agency has moved to the 22nd floor of the Crown building, Prince Mohammad Street, Third Circle. Our telephone numbers remain unchanged.

THE YOUNG MUSLIM WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION presents THE FAMOUS FLAMENCO GROUP: SPANISH BALLET OF MERCEDES MORENO

At the Royal Cultural Centre on Tuesday, and Wednesday, December 16th & 17th at 8:00 p.m. Tickets are for JD 5.- each. Tickets are sold at the Royal Cultural Centre. and on Thursday, December 18th, at the Palace of Culture at 6:30 p.m.

TICKETS FOR THE PALACE OF CULTURE SHOW ARE SOLD AT: The Spanish Cultural Centre - Jabal Amman Firas Bookshop - Jabal Amman Wadi Saqra Bookshop - Wadi Saqra Azizieh - Downtown Amman Jordanian Women's Union - Jabal Hussein University Bookshop - Jabal Weibdeh Khalaf Supermarket - Jabal Weibdeh Bazaar Khayyam - Jabal Weibdeh Hureih Printing House (Ashi) Jabal Amman Price of tickets for the Palace of Culture show: JD 3.- and JD 2.-

JORDAN WELFARE LOTTERY

Ordinary issue No 333

Drawing of: Dec. 17, 1986

Winning Tickets

Holder of ticket No. 10782 Wins JD 20,000	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 800 each wins JD 80 10783 10792 10882 11782 20782 10781 10772 10682 19782 00782
Holder of ticket No. 00217 Wins JD 5,000	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 400 each wins JD 40 00218 00227 00317 01217 10217 00216 00207 00117 09217 50217
Holder of ticket No. 24292 Wins JD 2,500	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 200 each wins JD 20 24293 24202 24392 25292 34292 24291 24282 24192 23292 14292
Holder of ticket No. 05229 Wins JD 2,000	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 100 each wins JD 10 05220 05239 05329 06229 15229 05228 05219 05129 04229 55229
Holder of ticket No. 45184 Wins JD 1,000	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 80 each wins JD 8 45185 45194 45284 46184 55184 45183 45174 45084 44184 35184
Holder of ticket No. 16744 Wins JD 1,000	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 60 each wins JD 6 16745 16754 16844 17744 26744 16743 16734 16644 15744 06744
Holder of ticket No. 40370 Wins JD 800	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 40 each wins JD 4 40371 40380 40470 41370 50370 40379 40360 40270 49370 30370
Holder of ticket No. 02891 Wins JD 600	Ten consolation prizes totalling JD 20 each wins JD 2 02892 02801 02991 03891 12891 02890 02881 02791 01891 52891

Ticket numbers	48563 27447 05878 59365	win JD 200 each
Ticket numbers	25013 31498 46738	win JD 100 each

TICKETS ENDING WITH

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Shultz states the obvious

U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz stated the obvious when he disclosed in a TV interview broadcast Monday that a weakened Iran might be willing to negotiate with Iraq an end to their Gulf war. Mr. Shultz based his statement on the fact that Iran was the principal recalcitrant party in the search for a peaceful end to the conflict.

Many sensible men here and around the world have been saying essentially the same thing ever since the war began six years ago, but others were not listening or did not want to listen to the voice of reason. Jordan in particular has maintained that any country which provided arms to Iran in its war of aggression against Iraq would in effect be fanning the flames of war and to the detriment of both Iran and Iraq. This we did without advocating a winner or loser situation to ensue from that war and without compromising the moral authority and territorial integrity of one country or the other. The basic message remains that of stopping arms shipments to recalcitrant Iran in order to find a swift end to the bloodshed which has not brought either party any nearer to halting the untold toll in terms of lives and material costs.

There are numerous precedents which point to the effective policy of stopping arms shipments as a means to stop belligerents from increasing their war efforts. We have seen it done in our region where arms shipments were often used as something like a leash to control military clients. Any military expert would readily accept the thesis that stopping arms and ammunition from reaching warring countries would constitute an effective way of halting the shooting. Therefore the question which is most perplexing to us in this context is why the world has allowed the flow of arms to Iran to continue when such countries knew or should have known that Iran rejects even an armistice in order to negotiate an end to the bloody fighting. Would it not stand to reason that any country which keeps sending weapons to Iran under the circumstances would in effect be an accomplice in the continuation of death and destruction? How many more thousands of innocent Iranians and Iraqis must die before the world wakes up from their nightmare and put an end to the war?

We in the Arab World have generally viewed the suppliers of weapons as guilty as Iran in this infamous prolongation of the futile war. That's why we have been shocked to know that the U.S., of all countries, has been caught redhanded in the greatest complicity of all times by sending arms and military spare parts covertly to Iran. It is truly an ironic twist to the Iran-Iraq affair to hear Secretary of State Shultz advocating keeping Iran militarily weak when President Reagan and his most inner advisers and members of the National Security Council have been caught advocating exactly the opposite. At least the effects and consequences of their applied policies vis-a-vis Iran would point exactly to the opposite direction. At best this is a case of the left hand of the U.S. government not knowing what its right hand is doing. At worst, it is a dangerous lack of coherence and direction in U.S. foreign policy, which could lead the world further into uncertainty and confrontation.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Setting the example

THE past five days witnessed talks between Jordan and Iraq in Baghdad designed to bolster their economic and trade relations. The talks and the agreements resulting from them come as a sharp contrast with the lack of joint Arab action and unity of Arab efforts at all levels. The joint committee which has been working for coordination of trade and economic relations has succeeded in promoting Jordanian-Iraqi cooperation which stands out as an example to be copied by other Arab states. The minutes of the committee meetings signed by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan reflect the Iraqi and Jordanian keenness on pursuing all efforts that lead to enhancing bilateral cooperation in all fields and safeguarding the interests of the Jordanian and Iraqi people. The two sides have agreed on raising the value of goods exchanged between them to \$800 million in 1987 and also decided to diversify the types of products they exchange with a view to meeting the needs of the two peoples. This agreement reflects clearly the determination of the leaderships in both countries to maintain the momentum of their bilateral cooperation and to expand the scope of their trade and their economic ties as far as possible. This successful relationship constitutes a nucleus for an overall economic integration between Arab countries and an inevitable step in all national Arab efforts leading to unity or future joint action in the economic and political fields.

Al Dustour: A step towards unity

PRIME Minister Zaid Rifai's talks in Baghdad and the meetings of the Jordanian-Iraqi higher joint committee constitute another important step towards firm relations between Iraq and Jordan and a further stage in enhancing bilateral cooperation in economic fields. In reviewing the outcome of the Baghdad meetings one can realise that the two sides have achieved a great deal in their drive to promote trade and economic cooperation and coordination between them. The minutes of the meeting reveal that the two sides agreed on expanding trade and economic cooperation to include additional goods exchanged between them and to increase the volume of trade. Since their first agreement on launching economic cooperation signed in 1980, the two sides spared no moment, but worked hard and diligently towards translating the slogans into reality and succeeded in realising a great measure of coordination and cooperation in economic, trade and technical fields. Iraq and Jordan have actually worked towards economic integration in a spirit of mutual and brotherly cooperation and for this reason they have gone a long way towards achieving real progress and developing their national economies. Their coordination serves as a model for other Arab countries.

Sawi Al Shaab: A model to be copied

WITH the conclusion of Jordanian-Iraqi talks in Baghdad another stage has been covered in cementing relations between the two countries and promoting future cooperation. The talks guided by directives from King Hussein and President Saddam Hussein resulted in further agreement between the two sides on developing trade and economic relations. Prime Minister Zaid Rifai who concluded talks with the Iraqi side stressed the two countries' determination to maintain joint efforts that can safeguard higher Arab interests. Needless to say that agreement reached in Baghdad will strengthen bilateral cooperation in trade and economic fields and deepen the brotherly ties between the Jordanian and Iraqi peoples. The talks in Baghdad bring another ray of hope for the Arab masses and form one more step in Jordan's drive to achieve full solidarity between Arab countries. The agreement reflects the two countries' determination to pursue their efforts towards stronger economic and trade ties and towards forming a nucleus for an all-out Arab economic integration. The prime minister concluded his visit to Iraq and his talks with Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan by saying that relations between Iraq and Jordan are exemplary and can open the way for a brighter future for the people of the two countries.

VIEW FROM AMERICA

The logic behind Irangate's illogical connections

By Franz Schurmann

THE so-called "Irangate" scandal in Washington shows how interconnected U.S. diplomacy is with so many different world issues. In the days of Richard Nixon it was called "linkage." Linkage meant that if one issue was being negotiated between the U.S. and the Soviets, other issues, say, for example, in the Middle East, could be brought into the negotiating game.

Consider the following linkages of Irangate:

- The arms deal between the U.S. and Iran is linked to the Iran-Iraq war.
- The U.S. opening to Iran was linked to freeing U.S. hostages in Lebanon, hence a linkage to the Lebanon crisis.
- Israel was involved in the arms deal, hence a linkage to U.S. policy towards Israel.
- The U.S., through the opening to Iran, is secretly supporting a rapprochement between Saudi Arabia and Iran, hence a linkage to the global oil situation (Saudi Arabia and Iran play the key roles in OPEC).
- The money paid by Iran for the arms went, in part, to finance the U.S.-backed contras fighting the Sandinista government of Nicaragua.

— Some of the money reportedly also went to finance the Afghan Mujahidin fighting the Soviets and the forces of Jonas Savimbi fighting the Soviet-backed Angolan government.

These complicated schemes have to be seen in the context of the broader global politics of the Reagan government. During the summit talks in Reykjavik, Reagan made some far-reaching proposals to Gorbachev for nuclear arms control. Many of America's allies in Western Europe fear that Washington may actually be

willing to withdraw the U.S. "nuclear umbrella" over Western Europe. Such moves for peace shift the Reagan government to the left. Rightists would be outraged if they were not balanced by other moves to the right. So as relations between the U.S. and the Soviet Union improved, the Reagan government devised this elaborate scheme to further conservative, rightwing interests in the world. If the scheme had succeeded, the following results might have been achieved:

- Iran either under or after Khomeini would have shifted back to a pro-U.S. position as under the shah.
- The new Saudi-Iran-U.S. link would lead to a rapid ending of the Iran-Iraq war.
- Iran's influence would rise in Lebanon because of the Shi'ite connection.
- Israel would be satisfied because the new line-up in Lebanon would be anti-Palestinian.
- A newly powerful OPEC would push up world oil prices, thereby rescuing the troubled American oil industry and stabilising the world economy.
- The contras would eventually be able to overthrow the Sandinistas.

Two key officials of the Reagan government have already been dismissed. Rightwingers are angry because the two men dismissed were close to the oil industry and vehemently anti-Communist. But leftwingers are also angry because of signs that the Reagan government might be considering an attack on Nicaragua. And as the grand scheme begins to fall apart, U.S.-Soviet relations are at a standstill. Reagan even announced he would deliberately violate the

SALT II treaty signed in 1979 but not ratified.

There is a logic behind the seemingly illogical doings of the Reagan government. The basis of the logic is the assumption that the state of U.S.-Soviet relations — as the world's two superpowers — determine the political directions of much of the rest of the world. But if the U.S. moves toward better relations with the Soviet Union, then this must be balanced by forceful anti-Soviet moves elsewhere in the world. Cooperation with the Soviets must be balanced with rivalry with them. A positive move must be balanced with a negative move so that the end result is zero, a perfect balance. Or, as conservatives like to say, a balance of power must be maintained.

So if the promising developments at the Iceland summit had continued, we would have expected an American move against Nicaragua. And if the U.S. rapprochement with Iran had continued, then we could have expected an even stronger pro-Israeli and anti-Palestinian line by Washington.

But if "Irangate" now undermines these schemes, then the evolution of better U.S.-Soviet relations will slow down. But the possibility of an American move against Nicaragua may diminish as well.

We can get some idea of how this Reagan grand scheme is working by the results of December's OPEC conference. If strong agreement is reached to bring oil prices up again to \$18 a barrel, then it will be because of close Saudi-Iranian cooperation backed by the Reagan government. If oil prices, however, continue to fluctuate or go further down, then that will be a sign that Irangate has badly damaged the strategies of the new grand scheme.

The Soviets are currently watching carefully and quietly to see how Irangate turns out. They know a great deal is at stake.

Palestinians outsmart Israeli Judaisation policies

The following article, by Abraham Rabinovich is reprinted from the Israeli newspaper, *The Jerusalem Post*.

COUNTERING the threat of Israeli land expropriation, Arab villages on the West Bank have undertaken their own form of wildcat settlement by breaking out of their traditional compact mould and spreading over as much land as possible.

The new development pattern, which in the past 15 years has replaced the pastoral nature of much of the landscape in the heart of the country with a formless urban sprawl, is cited by three senior geographers in a major study published by the Jerusalem Institute for Israel Studies.

The report by Israel Kimhi, Shalom Reichman and Joseph Schweid focuses on the Jerusalem metropolitan region which, according to their definition, encompasses more than half the West Bank. In this study region of 3,600 square kilometres, the built-up area increased by 119 per cent between 1967 and 1984, in some areas twice as fast as they increase in population.

Much of this development is along existing roads creating unsightly ribbon development. "The process is transforming rural settlement structure from a compact high density mode to a scattered and inefficient one," says the report. "The rural landscape is becoming urbanised/suburbanised." It will be extremely difficult to provide public services such as transport and sewerage to such scattered settlement.

It had been the lack of security in previous generations which provided much of the charm to the landscape by forcing rural Arabs to build their villages in tight clusters, often on defensible high ground, leaving the landscape open. Jewish West Bank settlements, for similar security reasons, generally follow this pattern today. The bounds of the Arab village began to give way with the arrival of the British and the ensuing sense of security that permitted loosening of the defensive perimeter. This was accelerated during the 50s and 60s but the study finds that the pace of dispersal under Israel is of a far different order, both in its scope and its strategic purposefulness.

"The choice of sites of development is motivated mainly by intent to prevent the execution of Israel road and settlement construction programme," says the report. Because it has been Israeli policy not to expropriate land which is occupied by a house or which is being farmed, this Arab strategy has been successful in blocking infrastructure plans by the civil administration.

"I know of many instances where plans for roads had to be altered because a house suddenly sprang up in the proposed right of way," said Kimhi in an interview.

"Often, when alternate routes would be drawn, houses would suddenly appear there as well. These plans become known and the local Arabs have time to react. I'm sure there is a guiding hand at work." In West Ramallah and elsewhere, entire ghost neighbourhoods have been built in a concentrated effort to fill in

open space that might invite Israeli settlements — the houses standing empty after completion. Generally, however, the new houses are occupied by young couples.

Much of the financing for this building comes from a joint Jordanian-PLO committee in Amman promoting *Sumud* (steadfastness), the Arabic word signalling a determination not to be moved from the land. Arab residents cross to Jordan where upon showing a permit obtained from Israeli authorities in the West Bank or East Jerusalem, they are granted funds for building. According to Kimhi, this sum is now \$8,000 dinars, about \$20,000 — almost enough to pay for the entire house in an area where building costs are about \$150 per square metre.

This pre-emptive activity also takes the form of intensive agricultural development, including the revival of ancient agricultural terraces, in areas where Israeli development is feared. A notable example is the sudden spurt of Arab agriculture on desert-edge areas never before farmed, surrounding the site, proposed several years ago for the Ramat Kidron settlement southeast of Jerusalem — still unbuilt.

The researchers claim that Jewish settlements in the West Bank did not generally interfere with Arab growth plans since they are located on government lands which were steep, rocky sites that Arab villagers had never intended to settle. Exceptions to this, the report notes, are Kiryat Arba, which is in a territorial conflict

with the Arabs of Hebron, and some of the new neighbourhoods in and around Jerusalem built on land which Arabs might have settled. Politics aside, the Jewish settlements often brought practical benefits to their Arab neighbours in the form of water lines and electricity, the report notes.

Based on a two-year study, the report maintains that the fabric of Arab society on the West Bank has remained generally intact under two decades of Israeli occupation despite the conversion of much of its rural population from farmers to commuting labourers, the creation of a network of Arab institutions of higher learning, the new patterns of rural development and intensive Jewish settlement.

The study shows the rural Arab generally remaining in his village even when he has abandoned agriculture for work in Israel where about one third of the working population finds employment. "From a social point of view," notes the report, "work in Israel fulfils the role that industry played in Europe — turning idle villagers into proletarians." The traditional family work unit engaged in agriculture has in large measure given way to this new pattern of blue-collar commuting but the Arab worker returns to his village in the evening instead of settling in some city, and still adheres to the authority of the *hamula*, or clan. This clan framework, the researchers note, provides a sense of security, political power, social and economic ties and a channel for acquiring a spouse.

While the number of

agricultural workers has declined by about a third since 1970 to some 30,000, increased efficiency has kept agriculture as the main productive sector in the West Bank economy, accounting for more than a third of local production. Industry has remained a minor economic factor, declining from 10 per cent of West Bank production in 1970 to seven per cent in 1982.

Although salaries in Israel were 74 per cent higher than salaries in the West Bank in 1970, the difference is now less than 15 per cent.

The report suggests that while traditional patterns have generally held, far-reaching changes may be in the offing. Where young couples used to live in the parents' homestead together with other members of the extended family, they are now living in their own houses. This is a reflection of the greater economic independence granted to young wage earners no longer working on the family agricultural plot.

Women have also begun to take up non-agricultural work in industry and services, a marked break from the traditional Arab pattern. The birth rate has remained very high but the researchers believe that a downward change may now be setting in, although slowly.

Perhaps the most striking element of modernity is the development of institutions of higher education. Eight have been established on the West Bank since 1967 at Arab initiatives, six of them in the study area.

Although many graduates of these institutions in past years emigrated to Arab countries in

order to find suitable employment, the oil crisis and job cutbacks abroad have changed this pattern. "In a paradoxical way," says the report, "Israeli rule has sharpened Palestinian identity through institutions of higher learning that give expression to national identity and constitute a vehicle for developing a social and political elite."

The study focuses on the Jerusalem metropolitan area extending from Ramallah to Hebron (and including Jericho) and encompassing 197 rural settlements. While the population on the West Bank as a whole increased by 24 per cent between 1967 and 1982, the growth in East Jerusalem and its immediate vicinity was three times higher. This growth, which more than kept pace with the rapid growth of the Jewish population of Jerusalem, was in part a result of the economic opportunities offered by that very Jewish sector, and in part financial inducements offered by Jordan and the PLO.

Kimhi is former head of the Jerusalem municipal long-range planning unit. Prof. Schweid, head of the Bezalel School of Design, formerly headed the Jerusalem master plan team, and Prof. Reichman, of the Hebrew University Geography Department, is a former senior adviser to the Transport Ministry.

The Jerusalem Institute for Israel Studies is financed in large part by the Charles H. Revson Foundation of New York which recently granted it \$4.5 million for a 10-year period. The institute conducts research into national and urban planning, social policy and contemporary Jerusalem.

Reagan decline leaves room for Europe to step in

By Christoph Bertram

MOST governments in Western Europe have yet to realise how rapidly President Reagan's nimbus has faded in his own country in the past few weeks.

The U.S. President's political authority may have taken a tumble, but every crisis has its silver lining of opportunity.

How, else is the decline in American leadership to be offset than by readiness on Europe's part to embark on initiatives of its own in the pursuit of political progress for the West?

Ronald Reagan may spend two more years in the White House but he will no longer be able to rule with the relaxed, winsome confidence that has been the past hallmark of his presidency.

The wizard of Washington, defying the experts with a sure instinct and ear for applause to pull political successes like rabbits out of a hat, has forfeited his magic powers in the mess of the Iran arms deal.

He will never fully regain it no matter resurrection. Even now he might conceivably brush the setback aside with a boyish gesture of the head and a winsome smile, suggesting to himself and the world at large that everything is back in order.

But it probably isn't. A pragmatic politician can iron out mishaps by means of sensible politics; a visionary who has come a cropper remains hard-hit.

Yet even people who have rejected President Reagan's policy in the past can have no cause for pleasure at his discomfiture.

Too much is at stake when the leader of the West has grown lame in the wing and there is still two years to go to the next presidential elections.

Dark clouds have been gathering for some time on the horizon of world affairs. Weeks after the Reykjavik near-summit disarmament talks between the superpowers are marking time.

The meeting between Foreign Ministers Shultz and Shevardnadze in Vienna at the beginning of November ended on a note of discord and the meeting

of U.S. and Soviet experts early December made no headway either.

The two sides' positions have, on the contrary, grown more unyielding.

In Moscow the knot sealing Mr. Gorbachev's Reykjavik package (no agreement on the scrapping of offensive missiles until America agrees to limit its SDI programme) is tied more tightly by the day, while Washington, strongly backed by European politicians and military men, is busy abandoning positions that were hailed in Iceland as a major success.

The U.S. government is increasingly setting aside the ABM treaty, which bans the development and testing of ABM systems in outer space.

The opportunity of a major breakthrough in Reykjavik has been missed. There is now an added risk of the vestiges of common viewpoints being trodden under foot in the hawks' hue and cry.

The other risk lies not in East-West ties but in economic relations between America and Western Europe, with protectionists gaining ground in the November mid-term congressional elections.

Secretary of State Shultz had already seen "warning signs of isolationism" in the United States, including calls, growing louder by the day, for protectionism which, he said, "would merely trigger retaliation by our trading partners and do America strategic, political and economic damage."

America's 1986 trade deficit is expected to amount to about \$140 billion, while the combined surplus of the Federal Republic of Germany and Japan will amount to \$125 billion.

So it is hardly surprising that America is tempted to solve its economic straits by batten down the hatches and stemming the tide of competition from abroad.

Under the self-assured President Reagan of old all may not have been well with disarmament and world trade, but

the danger seems sure to be heightened under the new, lame in the wing Reagan.

Will a president who has always been fond of giving his hawks their head now come entirely under their wing? Will he, the last bulwark against protectionism, now yield to congressional pressure?

Last not least, how can the West, led by a weakened U.S. president, summon the self-assurance to resume and expand the dialogue with the other superpower?

Mr. Gorbachev can be sure not to mark time in Soviet foreign policy merely because his opposite number is hard-hit.

Unless Western Europe is intent on hiding behind America's apron strings again, the answer can only be that it is now up to us. Europe must try to offset as far as possible the American policy shortfall and to reduce by initiatives of its own the risks inherent in the Reagan twilight. This presupposes three points:

First, Western Europe must stop once and for all merely voicing misgivings in Washington. Bonn Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher has rightly warned against "suddenly making out disarmament, and not

the arms race, to be the real danger."

Dispute over the zero option for intermediate nuclear forces is superfluous, not because it is the last word in military wisdom but because governments of NATO missile deployment countries have repeatedly committed themselves to it.

General Altenburg, latterly Bundeswehr inspector-general and now chairman of the NATO military committee, has stated with admirable clarity — a clarity that would have well befitted a number of his NATO colleagues — that:

"The zero option, whether we like it or not, is an idea that was inherent in the concept on which the dual-track decision was based, so I can hardly lament it now."

Instead of constantly clamouring for reductions in the Reykjavik programme Western European governments ought to be demanding progress on disarmament.

They must call in Moscow for intermediate nuclear forces to be scrapped by both sides despite SDI and in Washington for the Reagan administration not to abandon the terms of the ABM treaty.

What is to stop the Western

Europeans from drafting specific proposals on conventional disarmament in Europe the significance of which they have rightly reiterated since Reykjavik?

The appeals and procedural piousness they have made so far cannot be classified as serious politics.

Second, President Reagan must not be left to wage a one-man war on protectionism. Western Europe has a vital interest of its own in ensuring there is no further restraint on world trade.

If we seriously mean what we say we must abolish the trade restrictions the European Community and a number of its member-countries have imposed.

Given the modest growth forecast for West Germany made by the "Five Wise Men," there is every reason to bring forward the tax reforms planned for 1988, thereby partly obliging the United States.

What would be left of German economic growth if America were really to batten down the hatches? Third, the governments of Western Europe must pay keener attention to Western Ostpolitik while Washington is lying low.

There have been signs of European initiative. Mrs. Thatcher and M. Mitterrand have held lengthy talks with Mr. Gorbachev.

In Whitehall some members of Mrs. Thatcher's government have already concluded from the U.S. leadership weakness that Western policy may need to be reviewed in relation to a Soviet Union intent on modernisation and foreign policy mobility.

Chancellor Kohl refers hopefully to a fresh start even though he has failed to persuade the Russians to abandon the sulks occasioned by his ill-advised Goebbels comparison.

Why can he not summon the courage to clarify matters in a personal letter to the Soviet leader? Otherwise the Federal Republic will risk being too late to join the Western European convoy. Bonn could then provide nothing but ballast toward

Western Ostpolitik.

The Reagan twilight is both a challenge and an opportunity for Western Europe. The Europeans must now show that Western strategy does not depend solely on America.

All that can be said for sure is that the present crisis cannot be resolved by lamentation and prayer, the usual European panaceas for political upsets — *Die Zeit*, Hamburg.

Arabs report beatings and humiliation

(Continued from page 1)

beatings," said a spokeswoman, who spoke on condition of anonymity. "The only thing we confirm is the existence of this detention centre," she said.

The week-long protests in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip were touched off when Israeli soldiers killed two Arab students at a Dec. 4 demonstration. Two other Palestinians were killed in the next two days.

Palestinian sources have reported up to 600 arrests in Gaza and the West Bank.

The Hadassah daily quoted four other prisoners as saying they were awakened at 2 a.m. and forced to recite "I am a donkey, I am a pig."

Dr. Shafi said the soldiers used excessive violence to quell demonstrations and at least 47 Palestinians were wounded in Gaza by army gunfire and clubbings. The military has reported 33 were injured in both Gaza and the West Bank.

Attorney Khaled Al Khedra of Gaza City, also speaking at the news conference, said many of his clients were forced by a military tribunal to admit they threw rocks at troops although they were innocent.

Those who refused received three-month prison sentences and those who admitted guilt were fined \$350 but not jailed, he said.

ملكوته من الامم



Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu and Mrs. Ceausescu join in a dance to celebrate Romanian people's endorsement of a five per cent cut in defence spending in 1987. Jordanian columnist and writer

7 days in Romania

A GROUP of Romanian intellectuals, scholars and educationalists issued a call to world nations on Oct. 30 urging them to work for ending the arms race and towards the establishment of peace in Europe and the world at large. The group urged world nations to carry out a gradual reduction of conventional weapons and proposed that by the year 2000, the world should witness a 50 per cent reduction of the current rate of armed forces, weapons and military spending. For this reason, when a motion was put to parliament in Bucharest that Romania unilaterally reduce its armaments by five per cent starting this year, it won immediate support and endorsement, and it was decided that a referendum would be held in the country to allow the Romanian people to express their opinion on the issue. This motion also readily gained wide support by the general public since it was thought that a reduction in military spending as little in size as five per cent could not constitute any danger to the country's security or sovereignty.

In their call, the group of intellectuals and scholars said that the protection of peace was a moral duty and this duty was closely and directly linked to the fate of humanity as a whole. It was then decided that Sunday, Nov. 23, 1986, would be the date for holding the referendum on a draft law for arms reduction.

At the initiative of the Romanian government, I represented the Jordan Times and its Arabic sister Al Ra'i in observing this unique experiment. My impression was that the Romanian people proved to be very enthusiastic about the idea and keen on casting their votes. The ballots contained one single question: "Do you agree to a decision by the Romanian government to unilaterally reduce by five per cent the country's armed forces, its military spending and conventional weapons?" The ballot also bore two boxes one of which contained the word "yes" and the other "no" offering the voters their choice.

There was a big turnout for the referendum, and Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu and his wife both cast their votes in favour of the motion at an industrial complex which was crowded for the occasion with Romanian workers, students, and others. More than 16 million citizens in Romania of whom nearly one and a half million aged 14 to 18 years were eligible to cast ballots in the referendum. Mr. Adrian Ionescu, director general of the Romanian News Agency, told me that the inclusion of young

Khaled Mahadin is seen in a white cap standing in the background at Mrs. Ceausescu's left.

By Khaled Mahadin

people in the voting process reflected the country's keenness on giving them the right to decide on the future which concerns them more than any one else, and therefore, they ought to express their own views about this matter and about their role and duty towards peace in Europe and the world at large. On Nov. 24, the results of the referendum were out and they indicated, according to the official Romanian information media, that participation in the referendum was 100 per cent and all voters supported the motion.

This means that the Romanian government will now have to embark on immediate procedures for implementing a policy aimed at reducing armaments by five per cent. This will require a disbanding of at least 10,000 army officers and troops, a reduction of up to 250 tanks and armoured vehicles, 130 guns or rocket launchers and 26 warplanes and helicopters. Accordingly, the end of 1987 will witness a reduction in military spending worth 1,350 million lei (\$135 million).

Asked whether the reduction was economically motivated, Mr. Ionescu said that the aim was actually to serve moral duty and the need for Romania to contribute to world peace. But, he said, any reduction in military spending would certainly contribute to the process of development in the country and would have positive effect on Romania's economy.

Some Romanians believed that this was only a small step towards promoting the cause of world peace, but they nonetheless were optimistic and thought that other European nations should follow their example and start reducing their arms spending. They also believed that the basic step to be taken in this endeavour was halting the arms race, especially nuclear weapons, basically a task for the Soviet Union and the United States to undertake.

The Romanian president made his views clear to the press on two occasions during and after the voting. He said that the Romanian people desired peace and therefore, they were voting for it. "We hope that other world nations would follow Romania's example and vote in a referendum for peace, and I hope you will convey to President Reagan and Mr. Gorbachev the Romanian people's aspiration for peace," Mr. Ceausescu said. The president added that he was sure that children in the Soviet Union, and the United States desired peace and wanted their governments to follow policies that would ultimately lead to peace in Europe, America, Africa and other parts of the world.

Senate panel rejects Reagan's request for immunity

(Continued from page 1)

to move more quickly and has more famous members.

In addition, the Senate Intelligence Committee has been working vigorously over the past several weeks to gather as much information and testimony as possible about the secret transfer of Iranian arms sales profits to Nicaraguan rebels and related matters.

The special Senate panel (See page 2) will have a distinctly moderate-to-conservative tone, emphasised by the fact that eight of the 11 members voted in favour of President Ronald Reagan's plan to send \$100 million in military and other aid to the Nicaraguan contra rebels. The measure narrowly passed.

Democratic majority leader Jim Wright and Republican leader Bob Michel announced the members of the house committee at a joint news conference Wednesday.

White House Chief of Staff Donald Regan said Tuesday no-one had ever authorised to divert money from secret U.S. arms sales to Iran to the contras. Emerging from more than four hours of secret testimony to the Senate Intelligence Committee, Mr. Regan told reporters he did not know of the transfer of money and said: "I do not believe the president of the United States" knew about it either.

He denied that Col. North would have been given top-level authority to conduct a programme of aid to the contras.

Mr. Regan said Tuesday: "I can tell you that Colonel North or nobody else was ever authorised to divert funds... to the contras, or

anyone else."

U.S. intelligence chief William Casey, 73, a key figure in the Iran affair, was rushed to hospital Monday suffering from brain seizures. He had undergone gruelling cross-examination before Congress on the Iran scandal the previous week but doctors said they did not believe there was any direct connection.

Earlier, Senate Republican leader Robert Dole said on television he did not expect the Senate Intelligence Committee to grant Mr. Reagan's request for immunity for Vice-Admiral Poindexter and Col. North.

Mr. Dole and Senate Democratic leader Robert Byrd said Col. North and Adm. Poindexter should volunteer their testimony.

"My view is they don't need immunity. They ought to come up here and tell what they know. They owe it to their president. They owe it to the country," Mr. Dole said.

Mr. Byrd said immunity would make it extremely difficult for an independent investigator, due to be appointed by a court soon, to prosecute Col. North for crimes that might have been committed in the Iran arms deals.

Mr. Reagan had urged limited immunity from prosecution for Col. North and Adm. Poindexter. This would have barred the use of their testimony or any leads provided by their testimony in any criminal case against them.

On Nov. 25, the day the Iran-contra connection was made public, Adm. Poindexter resigned as Mr. Reagan's national security adviser and the president fired Col. North, Adm. Poindexter's top aide.

According to a report in the Los Angeles Times, Col. North told a colleague he had ordered the kidnapping of Iranian government officials in order to have people to exchange for the American hostages in Lebanon (See page 2).

Senator William Cohen said Wednesday the price of U.S. arms sold to Iran was inflated, possibly leaving profits for other purposes such as secret aid to the contras. "I think that's clear," said Mr. Cohen, emerging from the closed-door hearing at which Secretary of Defence Weinberger was testifying.

While the exact value of the weapons shipments to Iraq remained unclear, there has been

testimony that Iran paid about \$300 million, of which \$12.2 million was reimbursed to the Pentagon.

He would not say whether the committee had heard testimony on who decided what to charge Iran or how much to reimburse the Pentagon.

Israeli newspapers said Wednesday that some of the proceeds were missing from the arms sale to Iran arranged by Israel.

The newspapers Haaretz and Davar said there were contradictions between the accounts of arms dealer Yaacov Nimrodi and the Israeli defence ministry.

Arab federation to set up centre

(Continued from page 1)

On a proposal to set up a central Arab-U.S. chamber of commerce in Washington, the participants favoured delaying the issue. However, the federation recommended taking part in the Jan. 22 meeting of the New York-based joint chamber of commerce to further discuss prospects for setting up a Washington-based chamber of commerce.

On Tuesday, the federation's secretary general, Dr. Burhan Dajani, urged the participants not to move ahead with setting up a Washington-based chamber since "the atmosphere was not conducive for such a step."

Dr. Dajani had headed a special delegation on a visit to the U.S. and subsequently recommended a delay in the proposed project. The meeting also recommended setting up a pan-Arab council to

be entrusted with promoting inter-Arab trade and economic cooperation.

Finally, the participants charged the federation's secretariat to draw up a detailed memorandum on a comprehensive review of future activities and requirements to achieve Arab economic integration. This memorandum will be discussed during the 66th session of the FACCIA.

At the conclusion of the session, the participants sent a cable of thanks and appreciation to His Majesty King Hussein in which they paid tribute to his endeavours aimed at settling Arab differences and to bring about Arab economic integration.

The participants sent also cables of thanks to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Prime Minister Zaid Rifai for their efforts towards promoting inter-Arab relations.

Hind Nasser's individual style comes into its own

By Meg Abu Hamdan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — It is always interesting to follow the development of an artist and this is particularly true of the work of Hind Nasser, whose fifth solo exhibition can be seen at the Petra Bank Art Gallery this week. From the beginning, Nasser's approach to her work has been unusual. Under the guidance of her teacher, Her Royal Highness Princess Fahrelnissa Zeid, Nasser in direct contrast to all normal formal art education, began by painting huge abstracts, only coming to the figure some years later. But this was not the only unusual aspect of Nasser's work, for what marked her apart from the other students of Fahrelnissa who began simultaneously, was the way she developed her art in several directions at the same time.

It was a very individual approach and finding no parallels, it bothered Nasser and for a while she tried to restrict herself to the development of a single theme. However, as any artist will tell you, that when you force yourself to do something and deny that which comes naturally the results will be at best not very important. Nasser thus reverted, as can be seen from the present show, to her normal method of exploring several themes: simultaneously which, unified by a sense of colour and by her own abstract style, has

now become her hallmark and that which ultimately gives her work its uniqueness.

China inks

Around half the exhibition consists of China inks and it is among these some of the best works are to be found. China ink is a media Nasser now handles expertly, producing rich intense colours that delight the senses. Particularly good are the pair of landscapes entitled "Where Time Stood Still." In swift spontaneous brushstrokes, loose yet controlled, Nasser adds layer after transparent layer of colour building up the depth and shade while filling the whole with light. With a single twist of the brush, she conveys mountains, piles of fallen rock, distant bays and skies laden with the colours of sunset. Other excellent China inks are those which depict the colours of the night. The deep turquoises, purples, greens and blues of "The Azure Road," "Lights in the Distance" and "Glorious Azure," are full of mystery while the small black marks that punctuate these paintings give them balance and unexpected meanings.

With her inks, Nasser explores the almost literal — like her version of the Byzantine mosaic map full of earthy colours — and the totally abstract, like "Childish Dreams" whose cascading colours surge across the paper.

Oils

The same exploration is also to be found in her oils. Always a very technically able abstract painter, Nasser comes into her own with the series "Where Poets Ahseod." Wonderfully transparent, the pale colours of these paintings — which although totally abstract are very obviously still landscapes — move through several subtle shades, from the delicate lemon yellow to the shimmering blue of distant hills, the end of each spectrum being defined by a sudden heavy spot of impasto that acts to draw the eye. Nasser also cleverly uses the heavier paint to indicate an



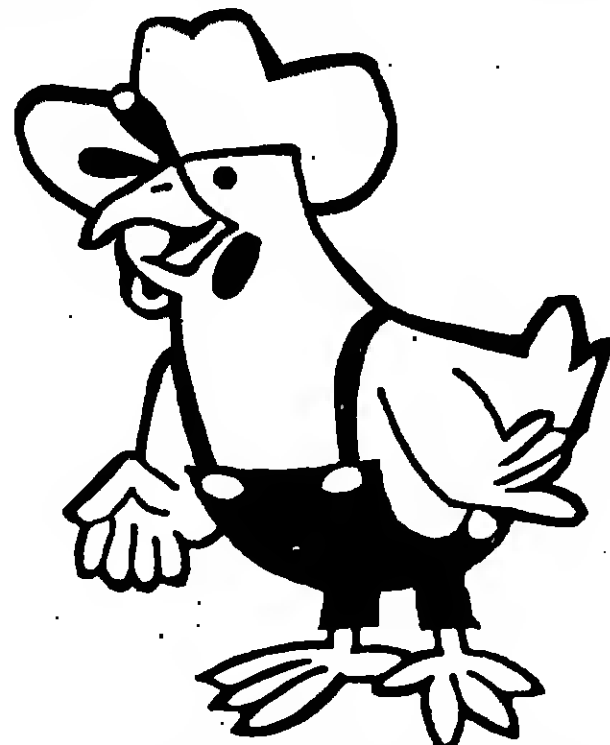
Transparent figures of women dissolving in a sea of calm colours are a new departure for artist Hind Sheriff Nasser

horizon, the spots sometimes as in "Desert Stillness Interrupted" taking on the forms of animals or people or whatever the eye believes them to be. The daring use of red in this latter painting, instinctively placed, adds a further touch of zest and life to a painting that already hints that some infinite peace has been forever disturbed.

Figures of women

Both these oils and the China inks are extensions of Nasser's previous work. The very abstracted figure studies, on the other hand, represent an interesting new departure for the artist, and one with a great deal of potential and scope. Hovering over transparent grey — blue backgrounds touched, as only Nasser knows how, with yellows, ochres, pinks and khaki greens, are the figures of women. Often almost completely dissolved within the colours around them, their presence is more often hinted at than actually seen, and this is what gives them their appeal. Especially good are "In adoration of the Infinite" and "Ethereal Woman" or "Contemplating." In these the poses, despite their complete transparency are solid and complete. They exude a sense of calm, of being at peace with the world, something the others with their slightly awkward poses have just missed. With development this new theme — along with the exciting transparency Nasser captures in all her work — is one that the artist could explore to produce some creative and original results. The exhibition runs until December 20th.

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Italy's Edalini wins World Cup special slalom event

MADONNA DI CAMPIGLIO, Italy (AP) — Ivano Edalini won his first-ever World Cup event and Ingemar Stenmark just missed his 85th Tuesday in a slalom down a tricky course that forced more than two-thirds of the skiers from the race.

Edalini, a 25-year-old Italian edged the Swedish veteran by 0.19 seconds to give the Italian team its third World Cup victory of the season and second in three days. Edalini was timed in 1:45.79 and Stenmark in 1:45.98.

"It's fantastic. I won my first race in front of my parents and villagers," Edalini said at the finish line after being lifted onto the shoulders of enthusiastic fans.

The Italian's previous best World Cup finish had been a third place in Sestriere, Italy, last year. He clocked the fastest time in the first heat, which claimed 53 dropouts, and then saved off a strong comeback from Stenmark in the second.

The Swede, who had won the opening World Cup slalom in Sestriere on Nov. 29, advanced two places from the first run but could not catch up with Edalini.

"As usual I was over-cautious in the first run," Stenmark said. "But the course was extremely difficult

and you could not take many risks.

Favourites Rok Petrovic of Yugoslavia, Italy's Richard Pramotton and World Cup overall champion Marc Girardelli of Luxembourg were among those knocked out in the first heat. They all blamed ice stones in the upper part of the course for the large number of spills and missed gates.

Joel Gaspoz of Switzerland, winner of a cup giant slalom in Van Badi, Italy, on Sunday, was a surprising third in 1:46.24, 0.45 seconds behind the winner.

The good slalom showing moved Gaspoz into fifth place overall, with 63 points, three

England's French hospitalised

HOBART, Tasmania (R) — England deputy wicketkeeper Bruce French was taken to hospital in Adelaide Wednesday for a cardiograph after suffering breathing difficulties during the night. The 27-year-old French was hit on the chest during the match with Victoria in Melbourne last week and team officials feared he was suffering a delayed reaction. French picked up a viral infection as well as suffering from the blow and has been unwell for several days.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Kasparov leads Brussels tourney

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) — Soviet world champion Gari Kasparov took the lead in the Brussels International Chess Tournament Tuesday, beating so far undefeated Hungarian Lajos Portisch in the fifth round, halfway through the \$12,400 event. British Nigel Short and Soviet-born Swiss Victor Korchnoi were tied after 20 moves, the veteran player being unable to pierce the defence of his young opponent.

Becker, Graf win sports poll

BADEN-BADEN, West Germany (R) — Teenage tennis prodigies Boris Becker and Steffi Graf were voted West German sportsman and sportswoman of the year Wednesday in a poll by the country's sports journalists. Becker, 19, who captured his second Wimbledon title and rose to number two in the world rankings during 1986, also won the sportsman of the year award in 1985.

Swiss skiers clock fastest times

COURMAYEUR, Italy (AP) — Swiss teammates Brigitte Oertli and Vreni Schneider clocked the two fastest times in a women's World Cup special slalom in the Courmayeur Italian Alpine resort Wednesday. Oertli skied the Chetle track, with a drop of 145 metres, in 41.01 seconds, edging Schneider by 0.04 seconds. Forty-nine gates marked the course. Austrian Anita Vachter was third in 41.51 seconds.

FISA to decide championship

PARIS (R) — The International Motor Sport Federation (FISA) Wednesday began a two-day executive committee meeting to settle an argument over the San Remo Rally which will decide this season's world championship.

The rally commission is considering whether to change the results of October's San Remo event following last month's decision by the International Automobile Federation (FIA) appeal court which cleared the disqualified French team Peugeot of infringing race rules.

If the result is changed, Peugeot's Finnish driver Juha Kankkunen will be the champion. If not, the title goes to compatriot Markku Alen of the Italian Lancia team, who woo this month's

Olympus Rally in the U.S. to lead 112-110 with the San Remo result as it is.

Kankkunen was second behind the Lancia of Italian Massimo Biasion after the third stage of the San Remo race before Peugeot was disqualified, and would win the world title if the result were annulled or if third stage positions were taken.

French manufacturers Peugeot have already woo the team championship for the second year in a row.

The San Remo organisers disqualified the Peugeots from their race, alleging that strips on the underside of the cars gave an illegal aerodynamic advantage.

FIA said there had been no fraud by Peugeot and stewards had not been justified in disqualifying it because there was no proof the cars had not conformed to regulations.

Japan to donate sports equipment for handicapped

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government of Japan has decided to extend to Jordan a grant of up to 47 million yen (JD 100,000) for sports equipment designed for the physically handicapped. The equipment, such as wheel chairs especially designed for basketball and racing, is intended to furnish the Sports Centre for the Physically Handicapped at the Al Hussein Sports City.

Notes to this effect were exchanged between the Japanese Ambassador Akira Nakayama and Chief Chamberlain His Highness Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid, president of the Jordan Sports Federation for the Physically Handicapped, on Wednesday at the Sports City.

Maradona named sportsman of year

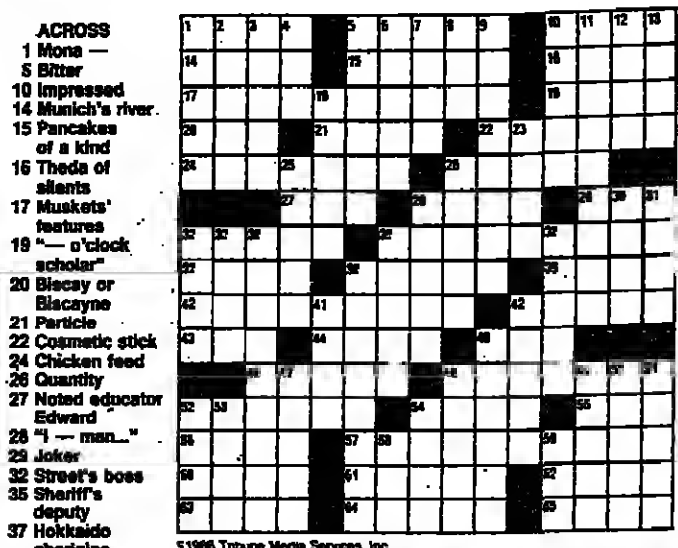
BUENOS AIRES (R) — Diego Maradona, the pocket-sized soccer genius who led Argentina to victory in the World Cup last June, has been named his nation's sportsman of the year.

Vice President Victor Martinez handed the Olimpia De Oro award of the Argentine Sports Writers Association to Maradona in a ceremony Tuesday night. It is only the third time in 32 years that a soccer star has won the award.

Maradona was hailed the world's greatest player since Brazilian legend Pele after a series of superlative displays at the Mexico World Cup finals.

"For me it is an honour to win this prize in a year when Argentina had so much success in soccer," he said, a reference not only to the national team's triumph, but also to club side River Plate. They captured the South American Club Championship, the Libertadores Cup, and then beat Romanians Steaua Bucharest in Tokyo on Sunday to win the World Club Championship.

THE Daily Crossword by James E. Hinish, Jr.



YESTERDAY'S PUZZLE SOLVED:

ACROSS: 1. More — 2. Star — 3. Star — 4. Star — 5. Star — 6. Star — 7. Star — 8. Star — 9. Star — 10. Star — 11. Star — 12. Star — 13. Star — 14. Star — 15. Star — 16. Star — 17. Star — 18. Star — 19. Star — 20. Star — 21. Star — 22. Star — 23. Star — 24. Star — 25. Star — 26. Star — 27. Star — 28. Star — 29. Star — 30. Star — 31. Star — 32. Star — 33. Star — 34. Star — 35. Star — 36. Star

DOWN: 1. More — 2. Star — 3. Star — 4. Star — 5. Star — 6. Star — 7. Star — 8. Star — 9. Star — 10. Star — 11. Star — 12. Star — 13. Star — 14. Star — 15. Star — 16. Star — 17. Star — 18. Star — 19. Star — 20. Star — 21. Star — 22. Star — 23. Star — 24. Star — 25. Star — 26. Star — 27. Star — 28. Star — 29. Star — 30. Star — 31. Star — 32. Star — 33. Star — 34. Star — 35. Star — 36. Star

Chelsea boss promised he won't be sacked

LONDON (AP) — If there is one English soccer manager who badly needs some good cheer and a little luck over Christmas, it is Chelsea boss John Hollins.

Hollins has already had one confidence-boosting Christmas present from Chelsea chairman, Ken Bates, who promised not to give the manager the sack.

"I think he will be one of the great managers and there is no way he can leave Chelsea because of this bad patch. There is nothing wrong that a few wins won't put right," said Bates after Chelsea's 3-0 defeat at champion Liverpool on Sunday.

But unless Hollins can pull his team off the bottom of the First Division standings, he may be forced out by the pressure of trying to change the fortunes of one of the country's most fashionable sides.

As his west London side went into a slump, Hollins, who used to be regarded as an extrovert, hunched character, went into his shell in the last few weeks, keeping public appearances and media contacts to a minimum.

Tired to his troubles, the Chelsea squad has been decimated by injuries, just when it needs a full complement of players over the busy Christmas and New Year period, when most teams will play four games.

After nine games without a victory, Chelsea faces cross-town rival Tottenham Hotspur on Saturday with five players doubtful, including ex-Egland striker Kerry Dixon and Scottish International David Speedie and Pat Nevin.

"I don't know who, if any, of them will be fit," said Hollins. Trying to be philosophical, he added: "We can only go one way and that's up. There are still 69 points to be played for but we have got to get the next three."

Tottenham, which has been entertaining but characteristically inconsistent, lost 1-3 at home to Chelsea early in the season and is out for revenge.

Although in ninth position, Tottenham is only one point behind leader Arsenal with more than half the season still to play.

But Arsenal, traditionally Tottenham's biggest foe, has been in no mood in recent matches to relinquish its grip on the First Division leadership.

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CENTRAL TENDER NO. (9/86)

- The Ministry of Health in Jordan has received a loan from the World Bank towards the cost of construction of health centres. Tendering is hereby open to all prequalified tenderers, the list of whom has been approved by the lender.
- The Government Tenders Directorate now invites sealed tenders from prequalified tenderers for the construction of the third group of buildings of health centres in Irbid and Mafraq District, comprising 2980 sq.m. as follows:

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- Interested prequalified tenderers may obtain copies of tender documents from the Govt. Tenders Directorate - Amman against a non-refundable fee of (JD 100) for each set.
- All tenders must be accompanied by a tender guarantee from an approved bank operating in Jordan in the value of (JD 15,000), valid for (120) days.
- Last day for purchase of tender sets is Jan. 16, 1987.
- Tenders shall be deposited at the Govt. Tenders Directorate not later than 12.00 noon on Sat. 31st, Jan. 1987.

Chairman, Central Tenders Committee
Director, Govt. Tenders Directorate

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LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One sterling	1.4285/95	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3782/87	Canadian dollars
	2.0155/65	West German marks
	2.2780/90	Dutch guilders
	1.7022/32	Swiss francs
	41.90/95	Belgian francs
	6.5990/6000	French francs
	1397/1388	Italian lire
	163.55/65	Japanese yen
	6.9550/9600	Swedish crowns
	7.5700/50	Norwegian crowns
	7.6200/50	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	393.50/394.00	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Equities turned easier in late trading after a mixed session with volume low ahead of the festive season, dealers said. At 1530 GMT the FTSE 100 share index was down 2.8 points at 1,635.1.

Glaxo was a feature gaining 13p to 1,022 after a further consideration of a confident statement by the chairman at last week's annual meeting, and on hopes of higher profits from a new drug due to be announced this Friday.

Dealers said however it could be around three years before any new drug reached the retail market. Fisons firmed 16p to 537 also on new drug hopes.

Elsewhere among FTSE 100 share constituent stocks, ICI gained 3p to 1,085 after Tuesday's agreement to merge its oil and gas interests with Enterprise Oil. Enterprise was 2p up at 177 in an otherwise dull oil sector.

Dealers said oils were cautious in the absence of any positive announcement on production cuts from the current OPEC meeting but many in the equity market are still optimistic that OPEC can reach some agreement on production and so lift prices.

Dealers noted firm North Sea oil prices with Brent crude for February loading quoted at \$15.90/\$16.00 a barrel.

YOUR DAILY
Horoscope
from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, DEC. 18, 1986

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The daytime finds you with fine business judgment and the knowledge for extending your interests and activities beyond their present boundaries.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Confer with experts if you are thinking of making any radical changes in property matters. They can help.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Get together with friends and recent acquaintances and plan for future social activities.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Confer with one who is an expert at finances and find out how you can improve your status in life.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) If you adopt a new attitude you can gain the wishes that mean much to you. Seek new associates.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Be frank with influential people who can be of assistance to you. Show that you are interested in your mate's activities.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Good friends will do almost anything to assist you today. Get into some public work and add prestige.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You are highly inspired and can bring your capabilities to the attention of bigwigs and gain their support.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Put new ideas to work that will make you a more popular person and be loved by intimates.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Get into practical problems with your mate and solve them very quickly and easily.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Messages to and from associates can produce excellent results at this time. Expand your public relations.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You find better ways of getting finer returns from your activities. Add to your possessions for more value.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Promise to join in some pleasures for the holidays and be sure to be there at the right time. Enjoy a fine dinner tonight.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, DEC. 19, 1986

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You want to do something of importance, but today is a day of preparation rather than for actually putting major plans into motion. Wait for better returns.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) You want to express a talent you possess, but it is best to perfect it before doing so. Show your loyalty.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Have more thought and care at home. Work at a measured and sure pace. Retire early and rest up.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Get busy with all those communications ahead of you, but be courteous with everyone and overlook annoyances.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) You have excellent ideas for improving your lot in life, but first take time to organize them properly.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) You have fine ideas for gaining more of the good things in life, but first take time to organize them properly.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) You find it difficult to gain your personal desires. Your mate will not go along with a secret plan you have.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) New friends may ask a good deal of you, but be patient with them since it can later bring you more benefits.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Study outside conditions and use them rightly so that you can improve career interests.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You want to extend your present interests, but it will take a little more time and effort.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Get your affairs better organized and you can handle your responsibilities more quickly and wisely.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Situations arise that fascinate you and you will better know how you stand with the public in general.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Study your environment and see what can be done to make it more charming and colorful.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will have every ability at comprehending matters that are quite complicated and scientific. This one should have a fine education so that he, or she, will fit into the executive world nicely. Give praise for anything that your progeny does.

Chase Bank
to quit Beirut

BEIRUT (R) — Chase Manhattan Bank has decided to close its Beirut offices shortly, officials from the bank said Tuesday, a move which will leave only two U.S. banks operating in Lebanon. The officials said Banque Sabbag et Francaise pour le Moyen Orient S.A. (Fransabank) had agreed to take over Chase Manhattan's business in the next two-to-three months. Chase Manhattan, which scaled down activities in 1976 with the civil war, still has offices in both east and west Beirut. Citibank, American Express International Banking Corporation, Chase Manhattan and Bank of America are the only U.S. banks still operating in Lebanon. Bank of America is due to finally close its operations this week, according to official announcements. Beirut's local and foreign banks have been frequent targets of small-scale bomb attacks, armed robbery and hostage-taking during the war, events that have become more frequent after the recent slump in the international value of the Lebanese pound.

Mubarak:
No reforms
that would
hurt poor

CAIRO (R) — President Hosni Mubarak said Wednesday that Egypt, which is negotiating International Monetary Fund (IMF) credits, did not want to risk like those which erupted in Zambia when it heeded the fund's advice.

Asked if the IMF had accepted gradual economic reforms which Egypt started last year, he told reporters: "Let the IMF say what it wants... I look only into what our needs are..."

"Look what happened in Zambia after they listened to what the IMF had to say... this led to disturbances and the Zambian president later withdrew all his decisions."

Rioting flared in Zambia's copper belt last week after the government doubled the price of maize meal. Lusaka reversed the increase.

Egypt is seeking up to \$1 billion in IMF credits to help it to meet heavy debt payments at a time of falling dollar earnings, mostly from oil. An accord should pave the way for rescheduling some of the country's \$38 billion debt.

Western sources said agreement appeared close on a first IMF payment of \$250 to \$300 million, although reforms Cairo would be expected to introduce had not been finalized.

Egypt and the IMF have narrowed disagreement over the pace of reform. The sources said the fund now appeared to accept that Egypt, where riots flared in 1977 when bread prices were doubled, could not easily abolish food subsidies because of the threat of fresh unrest.

Mr. Mubarak said Cairo would not yield to pressure. "We have no concessions to make on the rights of the Egyptian people," he said.

U.S. to ease allies' military debts

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The Reagan administration is to restructure its foreign military sales programme to help ease a huge debt burden carried by key U.S. allies around the world, the State Department said Wednesday.

Under the plan, nearly 40 countries reported to owe the United States a total of between \$15 billion and \$16 billion will be allowed either to pay off their debts with accrued interest immediately or to refinance at a lower interest rate, officials said.

The restructuring plans will be of particular interest to countries such as Egypt and Israel which have been lobbying for relief from debts incurred from past weapons purchases from the United States. State Department spokesman, Mr. Charles Redman, told reporters that military loans made several years ago bore interest rates as much as double today's rates.

He said the repayments imposed a heavy economic burden on many countries and diluted the effectiveness of U.S. foreign aid programmes.

Governments who opt to refinance would have their debts turned into a new loan at 7.5 per cent interest rate and would repay the entire amount at the end of the loan rather than in year-by-year payments.

Egyptian officials had talks in Washington last month and last summer on Cairo's desire for relief on its \$4.5 billion military sales debt to the United States.

U.S. officials said then that the problem had to be handled in a "global context" rather than dealing with one country at a time.

Egypt's interest payments this year were scheduled to total \$55 million. Israel has also been pressing from its debt burden of \$5.5 billion.

Among other countries that would be affected by the relief plan are Turkey, Spain and South Korea.

In a related development, the State Department released figures for individual countries reflecting sweeping cuts in the foreign aid programme made by the U.S. Congress.

Secretary of state, Mr. George Shultz, has repeatedly attacked the cuts as running counter to U.S. foreign policy goals. Because major aid recipients like Israel and Egypt are exempted, the cuts fall more heavily on other countries.

The figures show that many countries will receive less than half the amounts originally proposed by President Ronald Reagan.

Even allies like Turkey, Greece and the Philippines are to receive much less than they got last year. The amounts announced were for the fiscal year that began Oct. 1.

Congress specified the amounts a few countries were to receive, and the State Department had to decide how much others would get from the amount that remained for economic and arms assistance in the \$13.37 billion foreign aid bill.

The foreign aid package is \$1.5 billion less than the amount of the past fiscal year and \$2.1 billion less than that President Reagan proposed.

Israel, Egypt, Cyprus, the

Philippines and Pakistan were countries favoured under the aid package by order of Congress. Israel is to get \$3 billion in economic and weapons grants, the full amount sought by President Reagan, but less than the \$3.6 billion received last year, when Israel was extended extra emergency aid.

Egypt, which is favoured because it is the only Arab country to have made peace with Israel, will receive the full \$2.15 billion sought in economic and arms grants. Last year, Egypt received \$2.28 billion including extra emergency aid.

Cyprus is to get \$15 million in economic aid, five times more than the \$3 million sought by President Reagan. Cyprus, still partitioned since the 1974 Turkish invasion of the northern part of the island, benefits from lobbying support by the Greek-American community. Last year, it got \$14.4 million.

While aid amounts were lower for all the other countries, some benefited from a change in policy that is making more of the aid either outright grants or low-interest loans rather than market-rate loans.

Leading aid recipients include Pakistan, which will receive \$312.5 million in low-interest weapons loans. That is an improvement over the \$311 million received in market-rate loans last year, but less than the proposed \$340 million in market-rate loans.

Pakistan, which Congress is supporting because it borders on Soviet-occupied Afghanistan, will receive the full \$250 million in proposed economic aid, up from \$239 million last year.

Turkey, Greece, Spain, Portugal and the Philippines all have agreements with the United States under which they agree to host U.S. military bases in exchange for the "best effort" by the American government to provide certain amounts of aid.

Turkey is to receive \$177.9 million in low-interest arms loans, compared with the \$600 million sought by the administration. Turkey, however, will receive \$312 million in weapons grants, more than the \$220 million proposed. Turkey's total weapons aid this year is \$489.9 million, compared with \$615.3 million last year.

Turkey will also get \$100 million in economic aid, two-thirds the proposed amount and less than the \$120 million extended last year.

Greece, which under congressional mandate gets \$7 for every \$10 in military aid extended Turkey, will receive \$343 million in low-interest arms loans. President Reagan proposed \$500 million in market-rate loans, and Greece received \$431 million last year.

Spain is to receive \$105 million in low-interest arms loans, compared with the \$400 million in

market-rate loans proposed and \$383 million extended last year. President Reagan proposed an additional \$12 million in economic aid for Spain, but it will receive only \$5 million, down from last year's \$11.5 million.

For Portugal, President Reagan said military grants and loans totalling \$141.5 million, but it will receive only \$80 million, albeit all of it in grants. Portugal also will get \$64.8 million in economic aid, down from the proposed \$80 million.

Last year, Portugal received \$110.3 million in arms aid and \$77 million in economic assistance.

The Philippines will receive \$50 million in arms grants, the same amount that President Reagan proposed. But the country will receive none of the proposed \$50 million in arms loans. Last year, the Philippines received \$38 million in arms grants and \$14 million in arms loans, a total of \$52 million.

The Philippines, however, is being compensated by a boost in economic aid — \$250 million, which is up from the \$120 million received last year and the \$95 million proposed by President Reagan.

Current account deficit hits record, housing starts fall

On trade issues, the United States incurred a record deficit on its current account, the broadcast measure of trade in goods, services and capital, of \$36.28 billion between July and September, the Commerce Department said Tuesday.

The huge third-quarter shortfall tops the previous record for any quarter — \$34.41 billion in the previous three months — and highlights the problem of servicing the mounting U.S. merchandise trade deficit.

Merchandise imports rose \$2 billion in the third quarter to push the deficit to \$37.7 billion and smother a \$200 million improvement in services trade to \$5.6 billion.

Purchases of U.S. securities by foreigners that help finance the current account shortfall fell to \$17.1 billion in the quarter from \$23 billion in the previous three months.

The current account deficit, which includes trade in services

like insurance, shipping and banking as well as hard goods, must be financed either by borrowing or by attracting capital inflows to the United States through higher domestic interest rates.

The Commerce Department said liabilities owed to foreigners by U.S. banks were up \$32.2 billion in the third quarter after rising \$3.6 billion in the second quarter.

The department also reported construction of new homes fell by 1.8 per cent in November in anticipation of changes in tax laws on Jan. 1 which are expected to further depress construction.

The November drop, to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 1.6 million homes, comes after a sharply revised fall of 2.2 per cent in October. The department previously said October starts were down by 0.2 per cent.

The new tax law is expected to depress construction of commercial property because it lengthens the tax write-off period for property investment.

Some economists have said that construction, which provided a strong boost to economic expansion early in 1986, could be one of its weak points during the first quarter of 1987.

Although it was the third successive monthly drop in housing starts, the Commerce Department said the rate at which permits were issued for future construction increased 1.7 per cent in November to a seasonally adjusted rate of 1.6 million homes. The rise in permits issued was the first in five months.

For the first 11 months of 1986, construction starts have been made on 1.69 million homes, up from 1.62 million in the comparable 1985 period.

Until five years ago, the U.S. enjoyed a surplus in its current account as earnings on American investments overseas were enough to offset deficits on merchandise trade.

However, the United States suffered a record \$117.68 billion current account deficit in 1985 and analysts are predicting this year's deficit could top \$140 billion. For the first nine months of the year, the deficit already totals \$104.73 billion.

The deficits in the current account have pushed the country

in just three years from the world's largest creditor to its biggest debtor. That means foreigners now own more U.S. investments than Americans hold in foreign investments.

The United States was in hock to the rest of the world by \$107.44 billion at the end of 1985. The new figures on the current account suggest that debt is now hovering around \$193 billion, far surpassing the \$103.7 billion debt of Brazil, the previous leading debtor nation.

Kaufman predicts 2% growth

Meanwhile, Mr. Henry Kaufman, the respected chief economist at Salomon Brothers, said that the U.S. economy will grow by only two per cent in 1987.

Mr. Kaufman said the gross national product, the measure of all goods and services in the economy, would grow at a 1.5 per cent annual rate, with second half growth picking up to 2.5 to 3.0 per cent.

The Reagan administration is currently forecasting U.S. growth of 3.2 per cent next year.

As a result of the slow growth in the economy, Mr. Kaufman said interest rates on long-term treasury bonds would fall as low as 6.5 per cent from their current 7.4 per cent before rebounding to around 7.75 per cent at the end of the year.

Mr. Kaufman, in prepared remarks, also said that the dollar, currently at 2.02 West German marks, would fall to 1.75 marks in 1987. He said the dollar would also decline against the Japanese yen, falling to 150 yen from 164 at present.

His comments came in the annual report on the economy's likely direction for 1987 by Salomon Brothers, a leading investment bank.

The report said the U.S. economy will be nursed through a fifth year of expansion in 1987 by further declines in interest rates which will be encouraged by an additional monetary accommodation and easing credit demands.

The report said that a slowing of credit demands in the United States would easily be accommodated by supply, given the huge influx of money from overseas.

Survey puts Japan at helm of world
for being the most expensive country

LONDON (R) — The Japanese may have got rich by making cars, cameras and computers more cheaply than other countries, but Japan is the most expensive country in the world to live in, according to a report published Wednesday.

A survey by Employment Conditions Abroad, an advisory service for firms who employ expatriates, said the strength of the Japanese yen had helped to hoist Japan to the top of the cost of living league.

But being a wealthy nation is not a necessary criterion for expensive living. Firms looking to keep their expenses down would do best to avoid Nigeria, Algeria,

Iraq and Tanzania, which occupy the next four slots respectively in the high living stakes.

The figures, which are designed to assist international companies in estimating allowances for employees posted abroad, show that living costs have risen in the United States, which now ranks 39th compared with 65th in 1980.

Britain is now one of the least expensive countries to live in. The fall in the value of sterling over the past six years has made Britain slip to 60th place from 47th.

The biggest jump in expenses was recorded in Argentina, where the cost of living rose by 324.130 per cent between 1980 and 1986. However, this has been offset by a

fall in the value of the Argentine peso, and the country, once one of the most costly places to set up home, now ranks 44th.

Meanwhile, Japan's prime minister said Wednesday that Japan will honour its promise to restructure its entire economy, even at the expense of its own economic health.

Mr. Yasuhiro Nakasone told a visiting group of European Community (EC) politicians that implementation of the private but influential Maekawa report, which recommended a complete overhaul of Japan away from export-led growth and toward a domestic-led economy, was a government priority.

Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



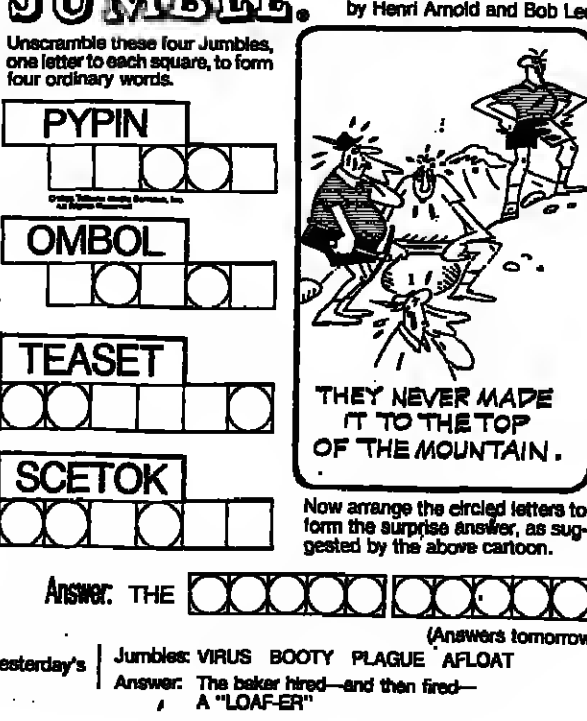
Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF.



JUMBLE.



Filipino guerrillas accuse army of endangering peace

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Rebel officials on Wednesday accused the military of endangering the "peace process" by reporting ceasefire violations without checking the facts in an effort to discredit insurgents.

Officials of the National Democratic Front (NDF) made the allegation to reporters after Defence Minister Rafael Bito accused the rebels of 11 or 12 violations of the week-old ceasefire.

In the latest allegation, the military claimed New People's Army (NPA) rebels raided a dance hall Saturday night in Ligao, 320 kilometres south east of Manila, killing four civilians and wounding two others.

The National Ceasefire Monitoring Committee, which includes rebel and military representatives, so far has not labelled any of the alleged violations as a clear-cut breach of the truce.

"We are appealing to the government to stop an emerging pattern to besmirch our forces without any basis in fact," rebel spokesman Antonio Zúñel told reporters. "It is not doing the peace process any good."

Zúñel accused the military of claiming rebel involvement in incidents without checking the facts.

"We see a pattern from the (military) that even small, unsubstantiated reports are shown to have actually happened," he said.

Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Fidel Ramos conferred for an hour Wednesday with President Corason Aquino on the alleged violations. Afterward, he told reporters that as of 8:30 a.m. (0030 GMT), the military had counted 12 "possible" truce violations by the rebels.

Asked whether he thought the truce would hold, Gen. Ramos replied: "I think so, but it's too early" to tell.

The 60-day ceasefire began on Dec. 10, the first nationwide truce in the 17-year-old rebellion. Presidential spokesman Teodoro Benigno said the government was concerned over the reported violations.

Rebel official Satur Ocampo said he was disturbed that Gen. Ramos had been bypassing the monitoring committee and reporting alleged violations directly to Mrs. Aquino. Mr.

Ocampo said the military was going directly to the president to pressure the committee.

But Gen. Ramos said he was reporting alleged violations simultaneously to Mrs. Aquino and the truce panel as soon as word was received. He said the reports identified the incidents only as "possible violations."

"There is no intention to mislead anyone in this reporting," Gen. Ramos said. He said he had met with Mrs. Aquino because of the front's allegations.

Also on Wednesday, deputy press spokesman Benedicto David said a group of cabinet ministers met to hear a report on government plans to spend 1 billion pesos (\$50 million) on rural development and to rehabilitate defectors from rebel ranks.

He said the government planned to offer cash payments to rebels who defect with their weapons, although details of the plan have not been completed.

He quoted Gen. Ramos as telling the ministers that since February, 336 NPA regulars had surrendered with 232 assorted rifles. Another 13,164 rebel supporters also had turned themselves in during the same period, Mr. David quoted Gen. Ramos as saying.

3 top Hanoi leaders resign

HANOI (Agencies) — Vietnam's top three leaders, who guided the country through more than half a century of war and revolution, resigned Wednesday after months of self-criticism over failings in leadership.

Party Secretary General Truong Chinh, Premier Pham Van Dong and Le Duc Tho, a key member of the party politburo, would not seek reelection to the party central committee, Vice Premier Pham Hung told the sixth national Communist Party congress.

Mr. Chinh, 79, Mr. Dong, 80, and Mr. Tho, 75, were the last of the core of revolutionaries who helped Ho Chi Minh found the Vietnamese Communist Party in 1930 drive out the French, Japanese and Americans and reunify Vietnam under the Communist banner in April 1975.

Their colleague and Mr. Chinh's predecessor as party chief, Le Duan, died in July of illness. The four of them, including Mr. Duan, began leadership after Mr. Ho died in 1969.

Their replacements, to be announced when the new politburo is chosen at the closing session of the congress on Thursday, were expected to be figures closely identified with recent reforms that Hanoi has deemed crucial to solving its economic crisis.

Mr. Hung announced: "At the request of comrade Truong Chinh, comrade Pham Van Dong and comrade Le Duc Tho, the presidium has agreed to respect their right not to be candidates because of their advanced age and bad health."

He called them "brilliant disciples of our beloved Ho" and "brilliant Communist fighters."

Diplomats in Bangkok called their retirements the most significant political event for the Communist leadership since Mr. Ho founded the party.

One diplomat in Hanoi told reporters more resignations or dismissals were expected, possibly including Defence Minister Van Tien Dung, 69, and army political commissar Chu Huy Man, 66.

He predicted nine new men would be named to an expanded 20-member politburo by the congress's end on Thursday.

Nicaraguan tribunal to try accused American

MANAGUA (R) — Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega said arrested U.S. citizen Sam Hall was a terrorist and would stand trial before a People's Tribunal, the same court which last month sentenced American gun-runner Eugene Hasenfus to 30 years' imprisonment.

Mr. Ortega told reporters Tuesday night that Hall was not a spy even though he was captured outside a major air base on Friday with maps of military installations and other places of strategic interest snuffed in his socks.

"He is a mercenary, dedicated to terrorist activities," Mr. Ortega said. He added that Hall would be judged by a People's Tribunal which was "for judging terrorists and he is a terrorist."

Mr. Ortega did not say when the trial would take place or what the specific charges would be.

Hall, 49, from Dayton, Ohio, was still being questioned by police, he said.

"He has admitted that he was looking for information on military matters such as helicopters and military airports," Mr. Ortega said.

Interior Minister Tomas Borge has said that Hall also had maps of Tipitapa, where Hasenfus is in prison, and Nicaragua's main port of Corinto on the Pacific coast.

Mr. Ortega said the Nicaraguan government believed Hall was working indirectly for the U.S.

government. Hall admitted he had worked with the rebels in Honduras and crossed the border with them on raids into Nicaragua, Mr. Ortega said.

Meanwhile U.S. Senator Christopher Dodd said Tuesday he had requested to see Hall.

Sen. Dodd told reporters he had spoken by telephone to Hall's brother Tony, a U.S. Congressman.

"His mother's worried, the family's worried. They don't know how he is, what kind of condition he's in," Sen. Dodd said. "I'm hoping to get some answers on that."

He said the government had not yet replied to his request.

U.S. embassy officials said they were still unable to see Hall.

Sen. Dodd spoke to reporters after meeting Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, Nicaragua's top Roman Catholic churchman.

He said the talks were productive but he gave no details. Obando y Bravo has been at odds with the Sandinista government over what he calls its persecution of the church.

Sen. Dodd is scheduled to meet President Daniel Ortega and Foreign Minister Miguel d'Escoto.

He will also visit Eugene Hasenfus, the U.S. mercenary serving a 30-year jail sentence for running guns to rebels.

Weinberger seeks approval of 50 more MX missiles

WASHINGTON (AP) — Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger has forwarded to President Ronald Reagan a recommendation to request congressional approval for another 50 MX missiles that could be deployed on rail cars, government sources said.

Mr. Reagan also has been urged to proceed with development of a much smaller, mobile Midgetman missile that could be carried on specially configured trucks, the sources said.

Mr. Weinberger's recommendation essentially tracks the advice he received last month from the air force, which had been ordered by Congress to conduct an extensive review of both the MX and Midgetman programmes, said the officials, who requested anonymity.

Unlike the Soviet Union, the United States currently does not have any type of land-based

intercontinental ballistic missile that is mobile.

Robert Sims, the Pentagon's chief spokesman, acknowledged Tuesday that Mr. Weinberger's recommendation had been forwarded to the White House within the past few days, but declined to discuss its contents.

Mr. Sims said it would be up to the White House to announce Mr. Reagan's decision on the recommendation.

According to the sources, the air force proposed — and Mr. Weinberger agreed — that the president should link the MX and Midgetman programmes together in his fiscal 1988 budget in hopes of winning congressional favour for both.

Congress, to date, has endorsed the idea of developing a single-warhead Midgetman missile despite Pentagon critics at the cost.

S. African abducted from Swaziland

MBABANE, Swaziland (AP) — A South African was abducted from his home in Swaziland by attackers believed to be working for South Africa in the second such raid in a week, police said Wednesday.

A spokesman confirmed that Roy Zahee, a South African of Indian descent, was kidnapped Monday evening by two black men, who took Zahee away at gunpoint along with three suitcases full of anti-apartheid documents.

The Times of Swaziland

newspaper said the man was believed to be a member of the United Democratic Front (UDF), a legal anti-apartheid coalition in South Africa. He lived in a cottage about 6 kilometres outside Mbabane.

Last week, South African forces staged five raids in Swaziland, kidnapping four people and killing two, according to Prime Minister Sotji Dlamini. Three of those who were abducted, including a Swiss couple, were later returned to Swaziland by South African forces.

Mr. Dlamini has demanded the return of the fourth, Grace Cele, who worked for the Unitarian Service Committee, a Canadian-based foreign aid and refugee assistance group.

South Africa has not explicitly acknowledged it carried out the initial raids or the one Monday night in which Zahee was taken. But it confirmed the detention of the Swiss couple, and said the threat of terrorist attacks by the outlawed African National Congress justified cross-border operations if necessary.

Rebels vow to topple Maputo government

LISBON (R) — Mozambican rebel leader Afonso Dhlakama vowed in an interview published Wednesday that his forces would shut down the strategic Beira Corridor railway as part of their fight to topple the Marxist government in Maputo.

Mr. Dhlakama told the Portuguese newspaper O Seculo in a rare interview from central

Mozambique on Nov. 30 that his Mozambican National Resistance (MNR) guerrillas were making daily sabotage raids against the railway running from the Mozambican port of Beira to landlocked Zimbabwe.

Some, 8,000 Zimbabwean troops are helping the Mozambican army to guard the

300 kilometre Beira Corridor, which as well as the railway accommodates a road and an oil pipeline.

The so-called "frontline" black African states like Zimbabwe are trying to build up the Beira Corridor with Western aid, in order to lessen their economic dependence on South Africa.

MI5 agent's lawyer says British aide lied in court

SYDNEY (R) — The lawyer for former British counter-espionage agent Peter Wright said Wednesday Britain's top civil servant Sir Robert Armstrong had been sent to Sydney to lie for his government.

Malcolm Turnbull, summing up in Wright's legal battle to get his memoirs published, said Mr. Armstrong, Britain's key witness, was the fall guy who gave worthless evidence.

"It would be unfair not to say that the real responsibility for his conduct lies with those in London who sent him here to tell lies to this court," Mr. Turnbull added.

On Tuesday, Judge Philip Powell questioned Mr. Armstrong's capacity to give meaningful evidence in Britain's legal fight for an injunction against Wright's book.

Mr. Turnbull pointed out that although his submission on Armstrong's conduct were very

harsh, his remarks were not intended to suggest he was a dishonest man.

The question was simply whether his evidence in these circumstances was truthful, he added.

Mr. Armstrong, Britain's cabinet secretary, was in Australia for nearly three weeks to give evidence in the five-week supreme court case, which sparked a political row in Britain.

Mr. Turnbull, summing up after two days of submission by Britain's lawyer, Theo Simos, said Wright, 71, was seeking to publish memoirs, whose material, with only two exceptions, was at least 15 years old.

Wright, who retired from Britain's secret service, MI-5, 10 years ago and now lives in Tasmania, was an experienced intelligence officer who deleted material prejudicial to his former employer, Mr. Turnbull said.

American gets concurrent life terms in spy case

BALTIMORE (R) — Convicted spy Ronald Pelton was sentenced to concurrent life terms in prison for selling national security Agency (NSA) secrets to the Soviet KGB.

Federal Judge Herbert Murray told Pelton, "you have caused inestimable damage to U.S. intelligence, and damaged the safety of citizens and intelligence agencies alike."

Pelton, a former NSA signals analyst, told Judge Murray, "I abandoned God to pursue the American dream. My pursuit of it ahead of God was wrong."

Public defender Fred Bennett had asked Judge Murray to consider a 30-year sentence for Pelton, who is 45.

But the judge responded, "I find it difficult to quantify treachery to the country."

Prosecutors agreed in July to

recommend concurrent terms for Pelton on four counts in return for his cooperation with U.S. intelligence officials who sought to repair the damage he did to national security.

The government also agreed not to prosecute Pelton for income tax evasion and a related espionage charge in Washington, D.C.

A jury convicted Pelton on June 5 of three espionage counts and a charge of transmitting unauthorised information to a foreign power.

Tral testimony revealed the former NSA technician, who had a top-secret security clearance, admitted to the FBI he sold national secrets to KGB agent Anatoly Slavnov at Soviet embassies in Washington and Vienna between January 1980 and November 1985 for \$35,000.

U.S. Marine deserter arrested in Australia

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — A former U.S. Marine who deserted during the Vietnam war should not be turned over to American authorities to face a court martial, Australian Immigration Minister Chris Hurford said Wednesday.

Former private first class Douglas Beane, 39, was arrested Monday in Australia, a U.S. embassy spokesman said.

The spokesman, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Beane had been in a military hospital undergoing treatment and faced a court martial when he went absent without leave in Vietnam on Feb. 28, 1970.

The spokesman did not say what charges were involved that might have led to the court martial involved or how Beane got to Australia. He noted, however, that there were probably commercial flights between Vietnam and Australia.

The spokesman said Beane was in the custody of the Australian Navy and could be turned over to the United States for court martial.

Immigration Minister Hurford said, "he was here illegally without any doubt in the earlier years, but he is now here legally. He has achieved permanent residence by virtue of his marriage

to an Australian and of course he has two Australian children as well."

Hurford also said Beane had "come clean" after his arrest. Defence Minister Kim Beazley will decide if Beane should be returned to the United States.

Beane was discovered after applying for a passport at the U.S. embassy in Canberra so he could travel to the United States to visit his father, who is ill.

"The main thing is to advise the gentleman of his rights and obtain information from him as to why he believes he should either stay in Australia or be handed over to the American authorities," said Australian Navy spokesman Barry Custance.

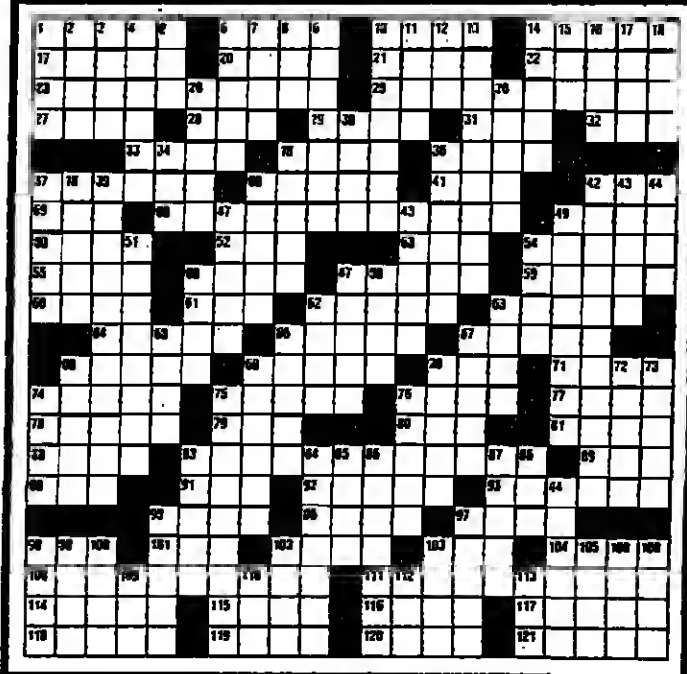
The U.S. embassy spokesman and Custance offered no further details, but Sydney Morning Herald said Beane had married in Australia and had two children, ages 9 and 11.

The newspaper said Beane only recently acquired permanent residence after living illegally in Australia.

The newspaper said he was arrested under a 16-year-old warrant issued by Australian naval police at the request of the U.S. military under the visiting forces act.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

Edited by Herb Ettenson



Last Week's Cryptograms

1. There's a small hotel with a wishing well, I wish I might be there when dumb mundane chores become boring.
2. On holidays, everybody got useful gifts, but my dad was always very satisfied with only his family ties.
3. The crown prince ate two pieces of pie after his fine feast.
4. Floor performer found fame and a dame in Europe.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. TOPERS YFTNIODH C GVAERL VW KNADAT
CU C GRCITS EGNUS TXVARK FL LIXVAX
EV KNOL C ELNTVD VNVP KNOBE

—By Martha F. Gerner

2. XE NAWNT NLY EAW BROW RD PRET
SHOW HL CATTFLX GAWL FRETW LES YE
HLX NLPFARLX WGBW RAWDEG

—By Leo Sherry

3. GIGWM AIRBAI TIRNBONCE THAEPNGRGGAP
BA KIAT MGW DIALEC DU WAUGPL "MAY
PAT, DIATF NAY"

—By Ed Huddleston

4. ZL ACR NOFFCE TAXXM HXS O TAXIMA
MRSSZPH NOE LCS ACRES BOM

—By Alvin R. Lebar



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